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ASEAN Opens Talks With 'Dialogue Partners'

OW2407034292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Manila, July 24 KYODO—Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) opened annual talks Friday with their counterparts from the region's major trading partners, with post-cold war regional security high on the agenda.

The three-day meeting between the foreign ministers of ASEAN and its seven so-called "dialogue partners," including Japan and the United States, follows a conference of the ASEAN ministers which ended Wednesday.

The ASEAN ministerial meeting focused on a territorial dispute over the Spratly Island chain in the South China Sea that is threatening regional security at a time when the U.S. military presence is on the decline.

ASEAN heads of government agreed at their Singapore summit in January that the six-nation group "could use established forums to promote external dialogues on enhancing security in the region, as well as intra-ASEAN dialogues on ASEAN security cooperation."

They stressed the need to intensify the dialogue with Japan, South Korea, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Community (EC), the seven dialogue partners.

ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, previously regarded security cooperation as taboo to avoid being seen as a military alliance.

Japan is expected to try to reassure ASEAN during the Manila meeting that its new legislation allowing the first post-World War II dispatch of troops abroad for United Nations peacekeeping operations will not be used to stir military ambitions.

Japan is preparing to send noncombat units to Cambodia late this year under the law, but some of the Southeast Asian nations that were occupied by the Japanese military during the war are worried that the move could lead to a repeat of the nightmare.

Also to be discussed at the meeting are ways of ensuring the success of the Cambodian peace process, which is now in jeopardy, and promoting economic cooperation between the fast growing ASEAN countries and their trading partners.

Japan, in a speech by parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa, will propose closer cooperation with ASEAN to help rebuild Cambodia, Japanese officials said.

This proposed cooperation includes combining Japan's financial and technological resources with ASEAN's expertise to help resettle Cambodian refugees now returning to their war-torn country, the officials said.

Kakizawa will speak on behalf of Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who is recuperating from a recent gallstone operation.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, now on an extended visit to the Middle East for peace negotiations, is expected to arrive in Manila on Sunday, the closing day of the meeting.

Russia Proposes ASEAN Crisis Management System

HK2407011892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Russia has offered to help ASEAN resolve the Spratlys issue and other regional conflicts. In his talks with his ASEAN counterparts, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev proposed holding a multilateral dialogue regarding the establishment of a crisis management system in the Asia-Pacific region to stave off severe military tension. Kozyrev said territorial conflicts in the Asia-Pacific still exist and it is important that these be resolved through political means.

Meanwhile, the ASEAN foreign ministers are set to meet with their counterparts from Japan, the United States and the EC to discuss several issues, foremost of which is foreign debt reduction.

Future of Cam Ranh Bay Base Noted

HK2407023192 Quezon City MALAYA in English 23 Jul 92 p 6

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrei A. Kozyrev said yesterday his government will continue to use Cam Ranh Bay as "logistic support center" after their naval forces have left the Vietnamese naval base.

In a consultative meeting with ASEAN foreign ministers, Kozyrev said: "The time has come for a frank and friendly discussion of the future of naval bases—our common heritage of the confrontation era."

Without specifically naming Cam Ranh Bay, Kozyrev said. "But isn't it worth thinking about transforming those facilities into logistic support centers for naval activities?"

In an interview, Kozyrev said: "We are not necessarily in a hurry to leave (Cam Ranh)."

He said what is important is to transform the naval base, built by the Americans during the war against Vietnam, into something that suits the new strategy, stability and cooperation in the region.

Russia, then a part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, started withdrawing from Cam Ranh Bay in 1990 as part of the demilitarization program of then President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Kozyrev said, "Russia's intention is to be constructively present in the Asian and Pacific region and it is ready to conduct a comprehensive dialogue with ASEAN countries."

Kozyrev proposed other confidence-building measures in Asia, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean:

—Impose limitations on the scale of naval exercises and refrain from such exercises in international straits, areas of intensive navigation and fishing.

—Initiate a multilateral dialogue on establishing a crisis management system in the Asian and Pacific region to avert the buildup of military tensions.

—Negotiate formation of an international naval force to provide freedom of navigation.

ASEAN Urges DPRK To Accept Nuclear Inspection

SK2407132992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Manila, July 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—Partners to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Friday called on North Korea to accept inter-Korean nuclear inspection, saying it was necessary for stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan, Australia and Canada, all full-dialogue partners to ASEAN, made the comments supporting South Korea's position on the inter-Korean nuclear issue at ASEAN's post-ministerial conference in this city.

All seven ASEAN partners registered support for active discussion of security issues at the post-ministerial conference.

The United States, however, stressed a precondition, that such discussions stay at dialogue-level.

Washington was opposed to security cooperation that surpassed dialogue-level negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told the conference.

The six-member ASEAN was joined by its seven partners in the conference that opened Friday. All ASEAN nations and their partners sent their foreign ministers to the meeting except for Japan, which sent a vice foreign minister.

Koji Kakizawa of Japan, Bareth Evans of Australia, and Barbara McDougall of Canada were among the first to take the podium for keynote speeches.

They emphasized that North Korea's early acceptance of inter- Korean nuclear inspection was a must in easing tension on the Korean peninsula and settling stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

They expressed support for regional dialogue on political and security issues, which sources say will be one of the priority items on the agenda at this year's ASEAN conference.

ROK Foreign Minister Urges Economic Regionalism

SK2407031192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Manila, July 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea called for open economic regionalism and security dialogue for Asia-Pacific countries in an address to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) here Friday.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok urged the participating nations to "render full cooperation" to Russia in building democracy and a market economy as "a useful investment in future regional peace and prosperity."

He also urged North Korea to join the global wave of change and reconciliation and accept inter-Korean nuclear inspection.

The six ASEAN-member nations—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore—opened the post-ministerial conference (PMC) with keynote speeches from their seven full-dialogue partners.

South Korea, the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community are attending the PMC as full-dialogue partners.

Yi, in South Korea's first positive response to collective security talks, said it is time to develop a dialogue channel.

"The American presence has been pivotal in the development and prosperity of the region... Yet, as regional exchanges intensify and become more complex, the need for regional security consultations can no longer be neglected. We believe that it is time to study ways to develop security dialogue for the Asia-Pacific region as a measure to enhance confidence and dissipate possible tensions," he told the conference.

Warning against discrimination and protectionism in trade policies, Yi urged development of open economic regionalism.

"Despite the Asia-Pacific countries' widely differing historical, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, their economic interdependence is ever deepening. In view of this growing interdependence along with inherent diversity, this region seems to be a natural habitat in which to develop open economic regionalism. This is especially important for the East Asian countries whose economies are heavily dependent on trade," he said.

"In terms of strengthening the bond between the two shores of the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation seems to be the most appropriate regional framework and is poised to fulfill its role," Yi said.

Australia's Evans Views ASEAN Security Potential

BK2307140692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 23 Jul 92

[From "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia says the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, has become the preeminent forum for shaping regional security. And on his arrival in Manila today for the annual dialogue with the ASEAN foreign ministers, Australia's Gareth Evans said he wanted to push forward that security dialogue. Senator Evans told Greame Dobell that the ASEAN talks will also focus on Cambodia, Burma, and the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

[Begin recording] [Dobell] Senator Evans wants the talks here to put further pressure on the Khmer Rouge [KR] of its noncooperation in the Cambodia peace process. In his words to draw clear lines. The foreign minister said it's too early to speak about replacing the present agreement while creating a new coalition government that excludes the KR. But Senator Evans says perhaps legitimate concerns the Khmer Rouge put up a few weeks ago have been responded to and it's not acceptable for the communist faction to demand the complete dismantling of the present Phnom Penh administration.

[Evans] Obviously, the whole United Nations peace process is still hanging somewhat in the balance depending, as it does, on the cooperation of all the internal parties under the ground rules laid down at the Paris agreement. I am very hopeful that the message now delivered by the UN Security Council [UNSC] will be received loudly and clearly by the KR. I hope that they will get the message that they cannot expect to benefit in any way from the [word indistinct] rehabilitation funds that will be coming into the country. The UN has already made that clear. I hope they get a very clear message that if their (?advance) continues, the next step will certainly be consideration by the UNSC of sanctions more directly imposed against them. And generally, I hope they have got the message and I believe they have, that they will be totally cooperated internationally without any [words indistinct] to assist with their dialogue and cooperation with the UN forces.

[Dobell] Senator Evans says that Southeast Asia is in a new, more fluid security environment. He pointed to the declaration the ASEAN foreign ministers have made on a territorial dispute in the South China Sea as an example of the way a difficult perhaps dangerous issue can be dealt with.

[Evans] I think the presence of the Chinese foreign minister here at the ASEAN foreign ministerial meeting has been an important opportunity to convey the common sentiment of the ASEAN countries so this is an issue that needs to be resolved by discussions, by cooperation, by working together, rather than against each other and (?rather than) conflict, it got to be resolved.

[Dobell] How much does Australia share the ASEAN apprehension about China's intentions or what China is actually about in the region?

[Evans] It would not matter having apprehensions or being worried about any immediate contingency, but there is a generalized concern, I guess, about just what the shape of the region will be following the end of the cold war and given the lesser prevailing presence these days of the Russians and the United States. What was standing there is a commitment to stay engaged in the region because of [words indistinct] composed on the region as a whole and in that context the other major powers, in particular, China and Japan will have greater relative authority, greater relative capacity. And that is important as a result that they be drawn into continuing dialogue about the future of the region rather than anywhere standing outside of it. And particularly when you have got a specific issue on which countries have strong views of their own, like China's territorial claims over the Spratlys and so on, it is particularly important that they become part of that crisis again rather than being pushed outside of it.

[Dobell] ASEAN claims that its softly-softly approach to the military regime in Burma is producing results. ASEAN says it is not prepared to abandon the policy of constructive engagement or impose any form of trade pressure on Burma. Senator Evans, while pointing to the harsh human rights situation, says there are ambiguous signs of movement. It's premature, he thinks, to expect any agreement to substantial action against Burma.

[Evans] One of the crucial things is, as far as ASEAN is concerned, is the use of a very good standing that ASEAN governments obviously have with the Burmese Government to communicate very clearly, very precisely, but not necessarily publicly, the concerns that everyone has about the state of [word indistinct] in Burma and the potential to be destabilizing in the region as a whole. And my impression is that the ASEAN countries have been more and more willing to do that over the last couple of years as the situation deteriorated, and in particular, as it spilled over into neighboring countries with the refugee problem. The ASEAN countries have exactly the same dilemma now that we have in reading the present situation, so I do not ask them to do anything, particularly dramatic at this stage. [end recording]

Indonesia's Alatas on ASEAN Spratlys Declaration

BK2307134092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1043 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Manila, July 23 (OANA-ANTARA)—The ASEAN declaration on the South China Sea (SCS) is a formal strategy for negotiations on the Spratly and Paracel Islands, and has used material from the three workshops on the matter which were held in Bali, Bandung and Yogyakarta, said Foreign Minister Ali Alatas here on Wednesday night.

Speaking to Indonesian journalists who covered the 25th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) Alatas said that the feeling in Manila was that finally the group had managed to provide a formal strategy for future negotiations on the crucial topic.

"We have signed the declaration in our capacity as foreign ministers. We consequently hope that the result will be more binding than the results of workshops held since 1990 when all the delegates came in the capacity of individuals," he said.

Asked if ASEAN needed issues such as the Cambodian problem and the Spratly and Paracel conflict to maintain its "integrity" as an organisation, the foreign minister responded "Such a way of thinking is usually the outcome of Western propaganda."

Problems involving Cambodia and the Spratly and Paracel Islands are not caused by ASEAN, but ASEAN has a responsibility to solve every arising problem which relates to security in the region, the minister stressed, adding that "the thesis adhered to by Indonesia is that the fruits of development can only be safeguarded if the surroundig region is peaceful."

Alatas said that Indonesia, as the host of the three SCS workshops and a claimant to the islands in contention, is not in a position to speculate on the effect of the ASEAN declaration. He said that the outcome depends on all six countries which make claims to the islands.

What Indonesia proposes at present is that the discussion on the jurisdictional claims and sovereignty over the islands be postponed and that attention is focused on efforts to exploit their natural resources, Alatas said.

The ASEAN declaration issued at the end of the 25th AMM meeting states that the ASEAN foreign ministers want to see a peaceful solution to the Spratly/Paracel problem and want to foster a positive climate to solve the conflict. The declaration advocates the postponement of overlapping claims and asks that all sides act in accordance with the spirit of the South-East Asian cooperation and friendship treaty.

Alatas said that there was a debate as to whether the declaration should include a call for a survey to be undertaken to better understand the islands' potential.

This point met Malaysia's refusal, however, as they consider that discussion about survey of the natural resources should be linked with the question of boundaries, and that the disputing parties are not yet ready for this question, Alatas said.

New Zealand Minister Addresses ASEAN Meeting

HK2407083492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0346 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Speech by Don McKinnon, New Zealand deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the 25th ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference held at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila—live; in English]

[Excerpts] Mr. Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Raul Manglapus; ladies and gentlemen:

I am certainly very pleased to have the opportunity to address this most distinguished gathering. We in New Zealand attach great importance to our membership of this select ASEAN-PMC [Post-Ministerial Conference] group. This is a unique institution, and our meetings have their own very special dynamics.

The presence of 13 foreign ministers here today testifies to the value we all attach to the process of consultation that the ASEAN leaders have established.

To your own ministry, we do congratulate the Philippine Government for its preparation in the program that they have put together with the usual flair attached to their importance of them. [sentence as heard]

Mr. Chairman, there are two special dimensions to the ASEAN Post- Ministerial Conference this year. One is, of course, that President Ramos, leading the new administration of the Philippines, has asked you, Mr. Chairman, to stay on as foreign secretary until after this meeting so that you could steer the post-ministerial conference.

And I am honored to join others today in bidding farewell to you and expressing formally New Zealand's appreciation for the important contributions you have made during your years as foreign secretary. I have in mind, in particular, your important role in a number of regional organizations, not least of which is APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Community], and your involvement in the peace process in Cambodia; your wise counsel; and, of course, your sometimes musical interludes in this and other fora in the future. You have, however, Mr. Chairman, a very worthy successor. I haven't had the opportunity of meeting with Roberto Romulo. I look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

The other special dimension, Mr. Chairman, of course, has been referred to by other speakers—the fact that 1992 is the year of ASEAN's 25th anniversary. [passage omitted]

Twenty-five years ago, New Zealand's trade and economic cooperation with the ASEAN countries was limited. Our links then were based primarily on political and security considerations. We had well-established defense relationships with several ASEAN countries, and I am glad to say that these remain in place today.

Looking back to those 25 years, we inevitably see certain ironies. In 1967, there were some 600 New Zealand service people in Vietnam; there was a battalion in Malaysia and in Singapore; whereas today, we have nearly 100 members of our Armed Forces involved in the peacekeeping operations sponsored by the United Nations in Cambodia.

I believe, like others represented here today, we from New Zealand take pride in a continuing commitment to the security of the ASEAN region. Our contribution has been small in numbers, but it has been consistent and (whose support) has been valuable one.

Now trade and economic relations with ASEAN have been transformed over the past 25 years. New

Zealanders do recognize that an economically strong ASEAN is [word indistinct] to the prosperity, security and future of Southeast Asia.

The government, and increasingly our private sector, take an intense interest in economic development in the ASEAN countries. And trade and economic cooperation with ASEAN is growing rapidly, and this process is playing an important role in New Zealand's current economic recovery. [passage omitted]

We certainly follow with interest the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Association. The prospect of liberalization in the range of tariff areas should lead to the (rationalization) of industry and investment, and will, if pursued rigorously, foster the greater interests of inter-ASEAN trade and development.

We must all remain hopeful that positive progress will be made soon on the Uruguay Round. Comments here today by the European Community, by our good colleague, the delegate from Japan, all [word indistinct] their desire to see progress being made.

It may not bode well for the future of international trade or a multilateral trading system if this impasse continues. A substantial result is immensely important. The alternative, the alternative to there not being a result, does not really bear thinking about.

The major breakthrough that we have been seeking is tantalizingly close. Some minor concessions on operational details made now could break the logjam and ensure that global freedom, like all of us represented here, will benefit in the years to come.

I believe, though, a Uruguay Round failure will lead to much more serious problems, not just trade and economic problems, but political and security ones that will have great consequences. [passage omitted]

Japan

Group Asks Court To Block Dispatch of Forces

OW2307115292 Tokyo KYODO in English
1130 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—A Tokyo woman submitted Thursday the first of a planned 99 daily requests for a court to block the dispatch of Japanese troops on overseas peacekeeping missions.

Takako Seki, a 40-year-old housewife from Higashi Yamato in suburban Tokyo, applied for a provisional injunction from the Tokyo District Court on the grounds that such a dispatch of troops would be unconstitutional.

Seki, a member of a society to atone for wars of aggression, told a press conference her father took part in World War II and she does not want Japan to "repeat the same mistake."

A group spokesman said 58 people have endorsed the plan and will submit injunction applications every day except weekends until December 14. He said the group is soliciting at least 41 more people to seek injunctions from the court.

The Diet last month passed a bill allowing Japan to send Self-Defense Forces personnel abroad on U.N. peacekeeping missions but polls show the public remains divided over the issue.

Opponents say the law violates Japan's postwar constitution, which bans the use of force as a means of resolving international disputes.

Other opponents who have already sought injunctions include 23 interparty local assembly members, mostly in the Tokyo area, and a citizens group in Kagoshima. Citizens groups in Fukushima, Aichi and Hiroshima Prefectures are planning similar actions.

Iraq Urged To Comply With UN Resolutions

OW2407110092 Tokyo KYODO in English
1041 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Japan on Friday urged Iraq to quickly comply with United Nations resolutions requiring access to its military facilities and documents following the Persian Gulf war. Foreign Ministry officials said a message conveyed to Iraq through its embassy in Tokyo also warned Baghdad that Japan will soon hold discussions with other concerned countries on possible responses to further noncompliance. The United States is reportedly considering resuming bombing of Iraqi targets to force Baghdad to adhere to the U.N.'s terms.

An Iraqi diplomatic official summoned to the ministry said Iraq would never allow U.N. inspectors into its Ministry of Agriculture to search for documents allegedly pertaining to Baghdad's nuclear weapons program, according to Japanese officials. He was quoted as saying that permitting U.N. inspectors to search the building would infringe on Iraq's "dignity and sovereignty."

Official To Attend Meeting on Yugoslav Refugees

OW2407113192 Tokyo KYODO in English
1033 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Japan will dispatch a senior official to Geneva for a meeting next week on aid for refugees from the former Yugoslavia and others affected by the conflict there, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Officials said Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito will represent Japan next Wednesday at the international meeting on humanitarian aid for victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The meeting called by U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata will study the current situation in the former Yugoslavia and ways to help refugees and other persons displaced by the conflict.

Government Pledges Aid for Indochinese Refugees

OW2407102092 Tokyo KYODO in English
1004 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Japan will contribute 17 million dollars to the United Nations for its programs to deal with refugees from Indochinese nations, the Foreign Ministry announced Friday. The funds will go to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to facilitate its comprehensive plan of action on the Indochinese refugees.

The ministry said Japan has made the largest contribution of all countries to the UNHCR's action programs, contributing some 24 million dollars for that purpose in 1991. With the new pledge, Japan will have contributed some 25.8 million dollars to the programs so far this year, it said.

In accordance with the plan, the UNHCR has been promoting temporary refuge for so-called "boat people" from Indochina as well as a screening program to determine which individuals should be granted refugee status. The plan would also call for promoting third-country resettlement for those who are accorded refugee status, and repatriation for those who are not.

Poll Shows LDP Winning Upper House Elections

OW2407000792 Tokyo KYODO in English
2350 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is headed for a big victory in Sunday's election for the House of Councillors, nearly equaling the all-time high of 72 seats it captured in the 1986 race, according to a KYODO NEWS SERVICE survey.

The KYODO poll, conducted July 18-19, shows that the LDP seems assured of grabbing half of the 127 upper house seats at stake in the upcoming election and is likely to approach the 1986 record.

Half of the upper house's 252 seats—126—come up alternately for election every three years. This year, an extra seat is being contested because it was vacated by former upper house president Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, who won the Saitama Prefecture gubernatorial election in June.

The latest KYODO poll revealed that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's party may take as many as 50 of the 77 prefectural constituency seats and 21 of the 50 proportional representation seats for a total of 71 seats.

Political analysts said the LDP would consider a win of 64 seats as "a victory" for the Miyazawa government in light of the party's stunning setback in the last upper house contest in 1989 after the introduction of a 3 percent consumption tax and a series of financial scandals.

The LDP currently holds 116 seats in the 252-seat chamber, 77 of which are up for grabs this time. The largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), holds 69 seats, Komeito has 20, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) has 14, Rengo-no-kai has 13, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) has eight.

According to the KYODO survey of about 48,000 eligible voters, of whom 36,900 or 76 percent responded, the SDP is expected to barely keep its 22 seats being contested this time—11 among prefectural electoral districts and 11 of the seats in the national constituency under proportional representation.

Komeito, which has 10 seats being contested, is poised to slightly gain, by winning 12, the poll shows.

The demise of the Soviet Union is likely to hurt the Japanese Communist Party, which will see its strength reduced to six from nine up for election, according to the survey.

The DSP is projected to win four seats, down from the five it currently holds that are up for election. Rengo-no-kai, the political arm of the eight-million-strong Japanese trade union confederation (Rengo), is forecast to win three seats, although just one of its seats is up for election.

The survey results show the LDP is certain to win 19 of the 26 single-seat prefectural electoral districts in the coming contest, unlike the 1989 election in which it won only three single-seat districts.

The poll shows LDP candidates are far ahead of their Rengo rivals in 15 single-seat constituencies, a reverse of the 1989 election, when Rengo won 11 such constituencies.

Of the 50 seats to be determined according to proportional representation, the LDP is on its way to win more than 20, but the SDP will see a sharp drop in the number of seats it wins to 22 in the Sunday contest from 46 in the 1989 election, according to the poll.

The new Japan party, set up by former Kumamoto Governor Morihiro Hosokawa, is projected to capture two seats, drawing strength in part from voters in Kyushu as well as other voters dissatisfied with the established parties such as the LDP and the SDP.

Some 40 percent of the eligible voters, however, had not made up their minds a week before the Sunday vote, the poll shows.

Opposition Rift May Prompt LDP Gain

OW2407092892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0905 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Polls are showing that a dispute among opposition parties over an international peacekeeping law will help the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Sunday's House of Councillors election to recoup its huge losses three years ago, analysts said Friday.

The analysts said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's LDP will win at least half of 127 seats up for grabs in the Sunday contest in sharp contrast to the 36 seats it captured in the last upper house election in 1989. The 127 seats include 50 national-level proportional representation seats and 77 regional constituencies, including one vacated by former upper house President Yoshihiko Tsuchiya who left the chamber to run successfully for the Saitama gubernatorial election in June.

Sunday's poll marks the first nationwide electoral contest for Miyazawa since he came to power last November, succeeding Toshiki Kaifu who was driven out of office by LDP kingmakers due to a political reform controversy. During the two-week election campaign since his return from the Munich economic summit, the 72-year-old Miyazawa has touted his performance at the summit, pointing out that the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries are now behind Japan in a territorial dispute with Russia.

But it is a quarrel between the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the centrist Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) over United Nations peacekeeping cooperation legislation that is helping LDP candidates in the triennial upper house election. Once a skeptic of the bill allowing the dispatch of Japanese military personnel to U.N. peacekeeping missions, Miyazawa changed his mind when he became prime minister, and worked successfully for its passage through the Diet with the help of Komeito, the No. 2 opposition party, and the DSP.

A series of opinion polls, including one by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, showed that the LDP, which has ruled most of Japan's post-World War II years, will capture more than 70 of the 127 seats at stake, nearly doubling the number of seats it won in the 1989 election. A confident Miyazawa declared only a week after the start of campaigning that all 55 LDP candidates running from prefectural districts will win, in addition to a substantial number of proportional representation seats. According to the preelection polls, the big losers in the Sunday contest will be the SDP and Rengo-no-Kai, the political arm of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) with eight million members.

SDP officials are sharply lowering their expectations, predicting only 22 SDP candidates may win in the election, and some rank-and- file party officials say SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe will go if the party fails to reach that modest target, which compares with the 46 seats the party won in 1989. The party, which has made its opposition to almost every government policy a matter of course, is trying to capitalize on the strong pacifist sentiment in the country by focusing its election strategy on the peacekeeping legislation. But the polls suggested that many voters appear to have grudgingly accepted the legislation as part of Japan's international contributions and seem more concerned about traditional pocketbook issues such as high prices for consumer goods and housing.

The other big loser will be Rengo-no-Kai, which scored a surprising 11-1 win-loss record in 1989 with the help of anti-LDP sentiment among the electorate because of financial and sex scandals, and a 3 percent consumption tax. Political analyst Minoru Morita said the "Rengo boom" is over, predicting Rengo will win only five seats at best Sunday.

Of the many small parties competing in the upper house election, the Japan New Party, formed by former upper house member and ex- Kumamoto Governor Morihiro Hosokawa, is expected to win several seats. The KYODO poll shows the new party will get two to four seats.

Kanemaru Criticizes Press for Poll 'Conspiracy'

*OW2307132792 Tokyo KYODO in English
1158 GMT 23 Jul 92*

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), lashed out at the Japanese press Thursday for engaging in a "conspiracy" by predicting a big advance for the party in Sunday's House of Councillors election.

At a gathering at the party headquarters to rally LDP candidates, Kanemaru said, "I cannot trust the media."

"I don't know if the ASAHI (SHIMBUN) and the MAINICHI (SHIMBUN) are the LDP's allies or if they serve public interest," said the party kingmaker about the two major national dailies.

Both newspapers said in recent nationwide polls the LDP would capture as many as 70 of the 127 seats at stake Sunday, compared with the 36 seats it won in the last upper house election three years ago.

If newspapers write favorable stories about the LDP candidates, Kanemaru warned, there would be some young men who wouldn't bother to vote and go to the beach instead.

"If they don't vote, please understand it's a conspiracy (of the press)," Kanemaru said.

Miyazawa Denies Tax Hike, Cabinet Reshuffle Plan

*OW2407104992 Tokyo KYODO in English
1032 GMT 24 Jul 92*

[Text] Fukui, July 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday he does not plan to raise taxes to finance the prospective supplementary national budget for fiscal 1992. Miyazawa, on the campaign trail in Fukui, said at a press conference, "I don't plan to finance (the extra budget) by raising taxes (including consumption tax)."

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed in June that the government compile a 6 trillion to 7 trillion yen supplementary budget in autumn, with Miyazawa making it clear the government will provide additional fiscal stimulus to spur the economy. Miyazawa also said the special meeting he has called for Friday night on boosting the economy will center on the LDP's proposal for additional fiscal spending, adding that specific measures to prop up stock prices are not in the cards.

Meanwhile, LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru said in his speech made in Shizuoka Prefecture that cutting interest rates should also be considered if the economy does not show signs of upturn.

Miyazawa also said he will not reshuffle the cabinet after the House of Councillors election on Sunday. "The current cabinet is quite a good team, and I don't want to change it in a hurry," the prime minister said.

He said autumn's extra budget will be financed through issuing construction bonds for long-term public investment, while ruling out the issuance of deficit-covering bonds.

Meanwhile in Tokyo, Vice Finance Minister Mamoru Ozaki said Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata will explain the ministry's view on the overall economy at the special meeting of economic ministers and LDP officials. Ozaki said the ministry's basic reading of the economy has not changed in any significant way. He said the government and the ruling party will cooperate closely on the LDP's fiscal spending proposal, but added that the government should not act to directly push up stock prices.

To Hold Meeting on Stock Market Drop

*OW2307170392 Tokyo KYODO in English
1508 GMT 23 Jul 92*

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday the government will convene a ministerial meeting on the plunge in Japanese stock prices on Friday in what was seen as an effort to restore confidence in the economy on the eve of national elections.

Miyazawa told a news conference that key cabinet ministers and leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are to meet Friday evening to consider "various measures, or all possible measures" to respond to falling stock prices.

However, government sources close to Miyazawa expressed surprise at expectations that the government might introduce new policies, and said the meeting was largely aimed at giving a psychological boost to the business community.

"It is important for us to demonstrate our determination to take action to boost the economy," said a top Ministry of Finance (MOF) official.

The officials said the meeting would focus on additional fiscal stimulative measures already under consideration such as a supplementary national budget for fiscal 1992.

Tax cuts or monetary easing such as lowering the official discount rate would not be discussed, they said.

The government should not intervene in the stock market and there are no useful measures it can take to hoist stock prices, the MOF official said.

Miyazawa's announcement comes three days before Sunday's House of Councillors election as the Tokyo stock market benchmark, the Nikkei Index, fell further Thursday in early trading after registering the year's low of 15,541.95 on Wednesday.

It took a sharp upturn after Miyazawa made the remark during the Tokyo stock exchange's noon break, topping 16,000 at the close of trading.

Speaking to reporters during a stumping tour of Kobe, Miyazawa said that overseas factors, including Germany's key lending rate raise last week, triggered the plunge in stock prices on the Tokyo market.

"We have to think of the issue form the point of view of the Japanese economy's position in the world economy," he said.

"I have several ideas, but I'd like to consider everything possible," Miyazawa said, without elaborating.

While Gaishi Hiraiwa, Japan's top business leader, expressed hope that the ministerial meeting would activate the market, stock market participants responded coolly.

"If Friday's meeting fails to produce any effective plan, market players will again sell shares out of disappointment, causing another setback," a brokerage house economist said.

The Finance Ministry has taken various stock-boosting measures, including raising commissions on futures trading and easing restrictions on margin trading. But such measures have been in vain, he said.

Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said that the meeting is "very timely," adding that he hoped it would galvanize the flagging Tokyo stock market.

Market Cool Toward Meeting

OW2307132692 Tokyo KYODO in English
1203 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—Stock market participants responded coolly Thursday to the announcement of a meeting Friday of government and ruling party leaders on the sagging market.

The benchmark Nikkei Stock Average managed to top 16,000 points at the close of trading Thursday on the news that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is planning the urgent meeting to discuss new fiscal stimulative measures, including a supplementary budget.

But most market participants were not encouraged enough to take an aggressive buying stance.

"It is hard to believe effective measures will come out of the meeting," said a trader at a major securities house. "If there should be a breakthrough for the dull equities market, why hasn't it already been adopted?"

The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presented a package of emergency economic measures in April and have promised to compile a large supplementary budget in fall.

But the market has continually been disappointed by what market participants see as "lip service" from those market outsiders, the trader said.

Indeed, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata told reporters Thursday there are no appropriate measures to boost the stock market now, prompting financial circles to expect little from Friday's meeting.

A brokerage house economist said the LDP is calling the meeting just as a campaign stunt for Sunday's nationwide House of Councillors elections.

"If Friday's meeting fails to produce any effective plan, market players will again sell issues out of disappointment, causing another setback," the economist said.

The Finance Ministry has taken various stock-boosting measures, including raising commissions on futures trading and easing restrictions on margin trading. But such challenges have been in vain, he noted.

BOJ May Cut Discount Rate After Elections

OW2307112992 Tokyo KYODO in English
1039 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) may cut the official discount rate just after Sunday's House of Councillors elections, financial market sources predicted Thursday.

The speculation of a cut in the benchmark rate by the central bank grew as stock prices continued sliding in Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday he plans to convene a special cabinet meeting Friday to discuss ways to halt the stock market plunge.

On money markets, long- and short-term interest rates fell in anticipation of a further decline in interest rates.

The central bank last cut the discount rate, which it charges on loans to commercial banks, by .75 percentage point to an annual 3.75 percent April 1.

The BOJ has since maintained a cautious stand on cutting the key rate, but the sources noted the bank is becoming concerned over the state of the economy.

Most regional central bank branch managers agreed at a recent meeting that the economic slowdown has spread to Japan's outlying areas.

The BOJ, in a quarterly analysis and economic outlook released Tuesday, said the outlook for economic recovery is quite murky because concerns about problems in the financial sector stemming from asset deflation overshadow budding upward momentum.

Until recently, market speculation centered on a possible discount rate cut by autumn. But global stock market plunges and a worsening of the economic slowdown have stirred speculation that such a cut will come sooner.

In the money market Thursday, the rate on three-month certificates of deposit (CDs) dropped to a four-year low of 4.32 percent, as expectations of a fall in Japanese interest rates strengthened.

In the bond market, meanwhile, the yield on a benchmark government bond issue temporarily fell below 5.0 percent for the first time in three years and five months.

Commercial bank sources said those drops showed the market is demanding a cut in the discount rate.

Loans Not Restricted To BIS Capital Standards

OW2407101492 Tokyo KYODO in English
0824 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Lending growth among Japanese insurance companies to corporate customers has slowed due to slumping demand for funds and expectations of lower interest rates, industry sources said Friday. Insurance companies, looking to loans for stable revenue while cutting back on stock investments amid the current stock price slump, are having trouble expanding their loan portfolios, the sources said.

Lending surged temporarily in May ahead of a long-term prime rate hike but has since lost steam, the sources said. The long-term prime is what banks charge their most creditworthy customers for loans of more than one year. The sources added that some insurance companies had recorded more loan repayments than new loans in June.

An official of Dai-ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co. attributed the slower loan growth to widespread expectations among corporate customers of lower interest rates in the coming months. A Sumitomo Life Insurance Co. official said corporate demand for funds is slack due to the national economic slowdown. The sluggish lending is basically due to reluctance among corporate customers to assume new liabilities, said an official of Meiji Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Meanwhile, there is no sign that Japanese banks are restricting business loans to meet minimum capital adequacy standards set by the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS). BIS is requiring all banks operating internationally to achieve a minimum 8 percent ratio of net worth to total assets by March 1993.

Automakers May Post 'Considerable' Profits Drop

OW2407100192 Tokyo KYODO in English
0707 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Four major Japanese automakers are likely to report drops in both sales and profits in the business half year ending September 30 due to sluggish domestic sales and rising fixed costs, industry sources said Friday. The firms are Nissan Motor Co., Honda Motor Co., Mitsubishi Motors Corp., and Mazda Motor Corp.

According to the sources, the automakers' sales are declining in terms of volume. While higher prices of vehicles could cover some of such declines, they cannot offset the expected sales shrinkage for most of the firms, the sources said.

On the profit front, all of the four automakers are likely to post considerable drops, ranging from 18.9 percent to 78.3 percent, the sources predicted. Together with rising fixed costs, an increasing burden of interest payments, and worsening profitability in exports stemming from the appreciation of the yen against the U.S. dollar markets, will squeeze their profits, the sources said.

Nissan will report an unconsolidated pretax profit of 9 billion yen, down 78.3 percent from the same period of the last fiscal year, on sales of about 2 trillion yen, down 4.2 percent, according to the sources. Honda was predicted to post some 27 billion yen in pretax profit, down 18.9 percent, on sales of 1.39 trillion yen, down 3.9 percent. Mitsubishi Motors, whose recreational vehicles are selling well, is projected to have a pretax profit of some 17 billion yen, down 32.3 percent, on sales of 1.2 trillion yen, down 1.4 percent.

Mazda, on the other hand, is predicted to report a 4.3 percent rise in sales to some 1.15 trillion yen. Its pretax profit, however, may plunge by some 57 percent to 4.8 billion yen, as the company is now battling sluggish sales and relatively high depreciation costs for past capital investment, the sources said.

Steelmakers Continue To Scale Down Production

OW2407100292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Japan's major steelmakers will continue to scale down production in the final quarter of this year in response to the protracted economic slump, industry sources said Friday. They are expected to produce just over 25 million tons of crude steel in the October-December period, leaving steel output for fiscal 1992, which ends next March, about 97 million tons for the lowest output in six years.

Another three months of continued output reductions will mean that the industry's production adjustment will have lasted 15 months by the end of the year, matching a similar reduction in the mid- 1980s, when the Japanese economy was hard hit by the yen's sharp advance against the U.S. dollar.

Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, said, "We are now in a quite extraordinary slump."

Major steelmakers produced 14.6 percent less in the April-June quarter than a year earlier and are expected to produce 10.3 percent less in the July-September period, bringing the half-year output to a meager 48.57 million tons.

Mitsuru Shiokawa, managing director of Kawasaki Steel Corp., said the drawn out production adjustment stems from inventory adjustment by steel users, such as auto and construction companies. "The steel industry should finish the inventory drawdown by September, but our users will not do so at least until the end of the year," he said.

Steelmakers reduced their stockpiles to 6.32 million tons at the end of May, from more than seven million tons held at the peak in October. But demand has declined faster than expected, keeping shipments modest, at 5.28 million tons in May, some one million tons lower than the peak period.

Shiokawa also said the massive front-loading of public works spending, the main pillar of the government's emergency economic package unveiled in late March, has had little tangible impact on the industry's business. "We have seen only a few sporadic civil engineering projects so far this month," he said.

Monthly Crude Oil Imports Decline 1 Percent

OW2407100392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0754 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Japan's imports of crude oil in June posted a year-on-year decline for the first time in three months, falling 1.0 percent to 108.44 million barrels, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Friday. The figure was also down 11.1 percent from May, according to the ministry's monthly preliminary report.

The United Arab Emirates remained the biggest supplier of crude in June for the third straight month, followed by Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. Middle East nations together supplied 76.5 percent of Japan's crude oil imports. The ministry said a delay in arrival of shipments from Mexico partly contributed to the slight [words indistinct] imports.

The amount of crude processed in June rose 10.9 percent from a year earlier to 94.22 million barrels, marking the eighth consecutive year-on-year monthly increase. Fuel oil output in June increased for the ninth successive month, by 13.2 percent to 93.15 million barrels. Production of both gasoline and gas oil hit records in June, rising 2.5 percent and 14.2 percent, respectively. Output of kerosene marked a year-on-year increase for the first time in three months, rising 18.1 percent.

Fuel oil imports in June declined from a year earlier for the fourth month in a row, falling 8.0 percent to 19.18 million barrels.

Domestic fuel oil sales rose 5.1 percent to 105.92 million barrels, marking the eighth consecutive month of year-on-year increases. The ministry said a 10.7 percent increase in sales of kerosene in June was due partly to lower temperatures in the month. The kerosene was mainly used for agricultural heating, it said.

Small Firms Suffer From Bad Business Conditions

OW2207104392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 22 KYODO—More small and medium-sized companies felt their business conditions had worsened in the April- June quarter than in the January-March quarter, according to a survey released Wednesday.

The diffusion index—the percentage of companies enjoying better conditions than a year earlier minus that of firms suffering worse conditions—stood at minus 18.3 for the April-June quarter, down from minus 16.4 for the January-March quarter, the survey showed.

The survey, conducted in early June by the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency and the Small Business National Corp., also predicted the index for the July-September period would be almost unchanged at minus 18.2.

An agency official said the index "could level off at the bottom but there is no sign of it bouncing back soon."

The percentage of companies posting greater sales than a year earlier minus that of firms with lower sales stood at minus 12.3 in the April-June period, down from minus 8.4 in the January-March period, the survey said.

The percentage of companies posting greater pretax profit than a year earlier minus that of firms with lower pretax profit fell to minus 20.9 in the April-June quarter from the previous quarter's minus 18.2, it said.

Meanwhile, the percentage of companies borrowing money at higher interest rates minus that of firms getting loans at lower rates rebounded in the April-June period to minus 27.3 from minus 38.5 in the previous three-month period.

The official said this showed that bank lending rates have not yet fallen enough despite a series of cuts in the official discount rate.

The quarterly survey covered 18,882 small and medium-sized companies, of which 17,510 companies, or 92.7 percent, responded.

Subsidies for Car-Transporting Ships To Increase

OW2307114692 Tokyo KYODO in English
1000 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—The Transport Ministry will boost its subsidies for construction of ships for transporting automobiles in a bid to encourage a shift from surface transportation, ministry sources said Thursday.

The sources said the governmental Maritime Credit Corp. will finance up to 80 percent of costs necessary to construct such types of vessels for use in coastal shipping starting in fiscal 1993, up from 70 percent at present.

Accordingly, the corporation will be given larger allocations in next fiscal year's budget, they said.

The move is intended to facilitate a modal shift of transportation, from trucks to other means of transportation, in view of the chronic labor shortage and growing environmental concerns.

The increased government support means reduced original cost burdens of shipowners who, jointly with the corporation, build car carriers that usually cost 3 billion yen.

Under the joint financing scheme, shipowners are required to repay the funds provided by the corporation to eventually own the ships.

A total of 17 such ships have been built under the scheme since 1986.

In addition, the ministry plans to boost the government's financial assistance for building passenger boats which link remote islands with the mainland from up to 80 percent to 90 percent of the costs involved.

Percent of Workers Changing Jobs Increases

OW2307132992 Tokyo KYODO in English
1253 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—The number of workers changing jobs in one year rose 7.8 percent in the 12 months to February to a record 2.77 million, according to a government survey released Thursday.

The Management and Coordination Agency's preliminary report for fiscal 1992 found the number switching jobs in the period jumped by 200,000 from the previous 12 months.

Those changing jobs voluntarily, for such reasons as better working conditions, increased by 90,000 to 2.07 million, while those forced to leave because of corporate personnel reductions or other reasons swelled by 120,000 to 690,000.

The agency contacted about 100,000 people aged 15 or older in some 42,000 households nationwide. The response rate was not immediately available.

The proportion of job-switchers to the total work force rose .4 percentage point to 4.4 percent. That ratio had remained flat since 1986, reflecting steady employment conditions, officials of the agency's statistics bureau said.

The report seemed to contradict a similar report released Wednesday by the Labor Ministry, showing the number of those employed after working for other companies sagged 0.5 percentage point, with the ministry concluding the job-changing fad was waning.

There were 62.97 million people on the nation's payrolls as of February, up 1.38 million, or 2.2 percent, from a year earlier, the agency said. It was the fifth straight year that the number jumped by more than one million.

The number of jobless rose 10,000 to 1.37 million, as the number of unemployed men declined by 30,000 to 800,000 while that of unemployed women surged 40,000 to 570,000.

Japan's unemployment was 2.1 percent by Japanese calculation methods and 2.0 percent when calculated by the U.S. standard, the survey found. That is 6.0 percentage points lower than the U.S. unemployment rate.

People aged 15 to 24 were the most frequent job-hoppers, with the ratio declining with age except for men aged 55 to 64.

The construction, transportation and telecommunications, and service sectors attracted more people than the number leaving, while people quitting out outnumbered those lured into the manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing, and restaurant sectors.

Expansion of Science Research Subsidies Proposed

OW2307035392 Tokyo KYODO in English
0250 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—An advisory panel to the education minister proposed Thursday that the government increase its science research subsidies to 100 billion yen to elevate the level of the country's science research standards, advisory panel officials said.

The science council submitted its final report on comprehensive measures for science research for the 21st century to Education Minister Kunio Hatoyama.

The report said there is a growing need to put more importance on basic study and rising expectations of graduate schools, as well as a need to upgrade foundations.

The panel urged the government to raise its annual budget for science research subsidies to 100 billion yen within a few years, and to set up a "center of excellence" to promote the most advanced study.

The panel also called for the improvement of graduate school systems in granting doctorate degrees in the cultural and social science fields.

Numbers of Unmarried, Educated Women Up Sharply

OW2407101692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0925 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—More than half of university-educated Japanese women in their late 20s are unmarried, reflecting a sharp increase of women in the work force, the Management and Coordination Agency reported Friday.

The agency said 56.2 percent of women aged 25 to 29 with at least a bachelor's degree were unmarried in 1990, up 15.7 percentage points from 1980. Of highly educated women aged 30 to 34, one out of five was unmarried, the agency said in a report based on the 1990 national census.

The work force ratio, which shows the rate of people aged over 15 who are working or seeking work against those who do not, stood at 78.7 percent for males on average, down 1.7 percentage point from 1985. In contrast, the ratio for women aged 20 to 59 rose 0.7 percentage points on average. The ratio for women aged 25-29 gained 7.1 percentage points to 61.2 percent. The work force rate for females recorded postwar highs in almost all age groups, except among those aged 30 to 34, many of whom are nursing young children, and those aged over 55, the report said.

By industry, the number of people engaged in the agriculture, forestry and fishery industries dropped by some 1.02 million to 4.39 million workers, or 7.1 percent of the labor force, the report said. The figure first fell below the 10-percent line in 1985.

More Newlywed Women Hope To Reenter Work Force

OW2307114892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—The number of newly married women planning to reenter the work force after raising children has jumped some 10 percentage points in the past 10 years, the Health and Welfare Ministry reported Thursday.

Of the women responding to a ministry survey, 51.9 percent said they plan to seek reemployment after raising children, up 9.9 percentage points from a similar survey in 1982, the ministry said. Those not planning to seek employment made up 7.1 percent, slipping far below the 12.6 percent 10 years before.

Among the respondents, 96.8 percent were on the payroll before they got married. Of them, 66.8 percent said they plan to continue working, up 13.4 percentage points from the 1982 survey.

The ministry sought to survey 4,910 newly married women last month in five prefectures and four major cities, of whom 83.6 percent responded. It was the first such survey in 10 years and the fourth since the ministry began them in 1966.

The areas, covered for the first time by the ministry survey, were Iwate, Gunma, Toyama, Tottori and Saga Prefectures, and the cities of Sendai, Kawasaki in Kanagawa Prefecture, Kyoto, and Fukuoka.

The women's average age was 25.7, up from 25.2 in the 1982 survey, while their husbands were 28.2 on average, compared with 28.1 in the earlier poll.

The husbands want 2.3 children on average, while the wives want 2.1, the survey found.

Asked how many children they would want if they were living with one of the spouse's parents, the women said 2.3 on average. If they were living separately from the parents, they would want 2.1 on average.

The respondents living in the five prefectures want an average 2.2 children, while those living in the cities want 2.0 on average.

The survey found 2.3 percent of the women do not want children, unchanged from the 1982 survey. Of them, just under half said child care is a physical and psychological burden, and slightly fewer said they attach great importance to their married life.

North Korea

ROK Attitude Toward Kim Tal-hyon Denounced

SK2307135592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Impolite Behavior"]

[Text] Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier of the DPRK Administration Council, and his entourage have been visiting Seoul since 19 July, at the invitation of South Korea. During his visit, our vice premier held talks with South Korean Deputy Premier Choe Kak-kyu; met with several South Korean businessmen; went to historical cultural sites in Chongju, Kyongju, and other rural villages; and inspected some industrial facilities.

However, we cannot overlook news from South Korea. The South Korean authorities made vicious remarks at official meetings. This contradicts the South authorities' original purpose in inviting the vice premier and the purpose of his visit to South Korea. This throws a wet blanket over the vice premier's visit.

Yi Tong-pok, the South side's spokesman for the North-South high-level talks, held a press conference before the vice premier's visit to South Korea. He said that there can be no change in the government's stand that unless the nuclear issue is resolved progress in North-South economic cooperation will be difficult. In addition, Han Kap-su, vice prime minister of the South Korean Economic Planning Board, who met our vice premier in Panmunjom, said that no progress can be made in North-South economic exchange before the issue of the nuclear issue is resolved.

According to reports from South Korea, if a South Korean person in authority meets our vice premier before he ends his visit, that person will deliver the so-called government's stand on the nuclear issue.

The improper comments the South Korean authorities are making surprise us and cause the nation to be apprehensive.

Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon's visit to South Korea was made at the South Korean authorities' invitation. Thus, the South Korean authorities are the hosts, and we are guests. After inviting us as guests, they referred improperly to the nuclear issue and talked about one thing and another while saying that some things can be promoted and others cannot. This shows bad manners and contradicts common sense. How on earth can they do such a thing?

As for the nuclear issue, the International Atomic Nuclear Agency has conducted two irregular inspections. Thus, it has been confirmed that we are using nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes. Therefore, the South Korean authorities' propaganda to make everyone believe we are developing nuclear weapons is revealed as a false strategy without foundation.

The suspicion about nuclear weapons in our country still exists. The South Korean authorities are responsible for this. They have refused to take objective and practical measures to prove that there are no U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea. Only the South Korean side can resolve the nuclear issue.

In spite of this clear fact, the South Korean authorities themselves are making a fuss about the nuclear issue. This is not reasonable. In addition, the South Korean authorities have raised the nuclear issue, which has nothing to do with our vice premier's visit, as a precondition for North-South economic cooperation and exchanges. This is presumptuous. If they were going to do this, they should not have invited Kim Tal-hyon. We cannot understand why on earth they should put on such a clumsy performance. The fuss about the nuclear issue is contrary to the South Korean businessmen's growing demand for economic relations with us.

The South Korean authorities' activities can only be construed as an intent to use the nuclear issue to delay and frustrate the implementation of the North-South agreement; to prevent cooperation and exchange between the North and the South; and not to achieve national reconciliation and reunification.

We should take this opportunity to refer to the attitude of some South Korean journalists. After inviting our vice premier and his entourage as guests, some government-patronized journalists of propaganda in South Korea are unreasonably slandering us. This can never be overlooked.

During the past few days, some South Korean journalists followed the authorities' policy of confrontation and division; wrote articles against North-South reconciliation, unity, and reunification; and sold their articles, thus helping to create confrontation and division.

It is natural for our vice premier to protest against some South Korean journalists' attitude and to warn them to be more cooperative.

The South Korean authorities should know that their impolite behavior to guests makes them lose face. They should be reasonable and discreet hosts.

ROK 'Insincerity' Assailed

SK2407103892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0022 GMT 21 Jul 92

[NODONG SINMUN 21 July special article: "Maneuvers To Block the Implementation of the Agreements Cannot Be Forgiven"]

[Text] The South Korean authorities are becoming increasingly obvious in their efforts to block the implementation of the historic North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration. Meetings were held by the subcommittees that were agreed upon at the North-South high-level talks to discuss the implementation of the agreement and the declaration. They failed to come to any further agreement at these meetings as the South Koreans' insincerity became obvious.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught us that both parties in a dialogue must show their sincerity for progress to result from the dialogue. At subcommittee meetings of the North-South high-level talks our side continued to request that supplementary agreements be adopted at the earliest possible date so as to implement the North-South agreement. The draft supplementary agreements and the amendments to them as proposed by the North were reasonable, fair, and straightforward documents that fully reflected the South's opinion and that could bring about peace and reunification without external intervention. Although the subcommittee meetings could have achieved great results, the South was unwilling from the start to implement the agreements. They came to the meetings empty-handed, with no draft agreements, and as further proof of their insincerity, they made meaningless remarks.

Moreover, the fact that the South continues to find fault with us while deliberately refraining from discussing basic issues at every Political Subcommittee or Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee meeting, or Red Cross working-level delegates' contacts is of more serious consequence. There should be no room for further discussion as the International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed that our nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula will be resolved when it is confirmed that there are no nuclear weapons on the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea. The South Korean authorities, however, continue to place the burden of responsibility on us. They maliciously intend to hinder the implementation of the North-South agreements so that North-South relations will regress to the state they were in before the agreements were adopted. Their actions are proof of their malicious intentions. Defense Ministry officials as well as other South Korean authorities repeatedly cite our nonexistent threat as a bone of contention yet continue to build up its forces frantically while telling us that the reduction of troops and military expenditure is premature.

The South Korean Defense Ministry decided to increase military spending by 12 percent this year and to increase it another $1.9 billion next year so as to use it to increase combat capability of the puppet Navy and Air Force. They are also bringing in submarines as well as other war equipment from the United States and West European countries.

The South continues to build up arms while fanatically conducting war rehearsals. Although they announced that the Team Spirit joint military exercise would not be conducted this year, they have stepped up various adventurous war rehearsals against us since early this year. The rehearsals for a war of aggression continue everyday in the skies over South Korea and along the Military Demarcation Line.

The South and the United States plan to conduct a large-scale joint military exercise called Focus Lens in the middle of August. Focus Lens is the new name for the Team Spirit joint military nuclear exercise, that is to be held against us next year.

This proves that although the South Koreans say that they advocate reconciliation, unity, and reunification, they actually dream of achieving reunification by defeating communism and do not truly desire national unity and peace. Although they act as though they are interested in resolving the issue of cooperation and exchange through the exchange of visits by elderly parents, their actions are only another farce. This is clearly seen in their refusal to deal with the repatriation of the elderly former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army Yi In-mo, which is a far more urgent humanitarian issue than the exchange of visits by elderly parents.

They continue their fascist suppression by maintaining their notorious National Security Law and by not releasing individuals who visited the North. The zeal the people and the students have for reunification is blocked by the South's insistence upon unifying the channels of dialogue.

When considering the actions of the South, can we say that they are willing to cooperate?

All these facts show that the South Koreans are unwilling to implement the North-South agreement and that they scheme only to pursue division, confrontation, and war in collaboration with outside forces.

The South needs to give up its anachronistic antipeace and antireunification stance and begin to implement the North-South agreement as well as the joint denuclearization declaration as it has pledged to the entire nation.

Eager for reunification in the 1990s, the entire nation is watching to see what steps will be taken by the South to implement the North-South agreement. If the South continues to block peace and reunification in this country, they will be subject to stern punishment by the entire nation and the peace-loving people of the world.

NODONG SINMUN Commentary

SK2407012792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 24 Jul 92

[NODONG SINMUN 24 July Commentary: "Act Lacking Morality and Etiquette"]

[Text] Since 19 July, Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier of the State Administration Council and chairman of the External Economic Committee, and his party are now visiting South Korea at the invitation of deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board of South Korea as already reported.

While staying in Seoul our vice premier and his party held talks with the deputy prime minister of the South side and met with many businessmen in South Korea. They also toured local areas and inspected industrial facilities in South Korea.

At a press conference held on 19 July prior to departing Panmunjom, Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon said that his visit to South Korea will contribute to linking the severed national economy and to expediting the country's reunification and expressed the hope that this visit to Seoul, which is made under the principle of reciprocity, will contribute to achieving the development of the national economy by realizing economic cooperation and exchange between the North and the South.

Nevertheless, an intolerable symptom which runs counter to such a hope is taking place in Seoul. The South Korean authorities made indecent remarks at official meetings running counter to their purpose of inviting our vice premier and his party. The remarks also are in conflict with the purpose of the vice premier and his party's visit to Seoul. They created a bad result which clouds the significance of the Seoul visit.

Yi Tong-pok, the South side's spokesman to the North-South high-level talks, said at a press conference held prior to our vice premier's visit to Seoul that there is no change in its previous stand. He stated that unless the nuclear issue is solved, progress in North-South economic cooperation will be difficult.

Han Kap-su, vice minister of the Economic Planning Board of South Korea, who came to Panmunjom to receive our vice premier and his party, said that unless the nuclear issue is solved, the two premiers will have to run on parallel lines even if they meet again to discuss promoting North-South economic cooperation.

According to reports from Seoul, high-ranking South Korean authorities will meet our vice premier and his party before they leave Seoul and deliver the so-called government's stand on the nuclear issue. The improper stereotypical remarks of the South Korean authorities indeed surprise us and greatly disappoint fellow countrymen who want national reconciliation and cooperation. The remarks cause our countrymen's deep concern.

The South Korean authorities invited our vice premier and his party to Seoul. The South Korean authorities are the hosts and we are guests. After inviting the guests, the South Korean authorities improperly used the nuclear issue—which is not problematical—as a precondition. They talked about one thing or another while saying that some things can be promoted and others cannot. This is not only an act lacking morality and primary etiquette, but is also an act which contradicts common sense. Such an act is indeed inconceivable.

As for the nuclear issue, as has already been reported, the South side's allegation on our nuclear weapons development has turned out to be a lie through the two irregular inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Our nuclear research facilities have been used solely for peaceful purposes and this has been verified again by the IAEA. It is indeed the South side which causes suspicion and apprehension on the nuclear issue among the people of the world.

In fact, our doubts on nuclear weapons can only be dispelled by conducting inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

Despite these stark facts, the South Korean authorities, finding fault with our nuclear issue, which is nonexistent, are putting a brake on the activities of the delegation led by our vice premier and on North-South economic cooperation. Moreover, they are committing acts that could build an artificial obstacle to North-South reconciliation, unity, and reunification. Anyone can recognize that these are not acts of those with normal powers of thinking. North-South economic cooperation is not intended for the benefit of one side only but for the common national prosperity.

The South Korean authorities are trying to use our nuclear issue, which is being resolved smoothly, as a precondition for North-South economic cooperation. This makes one wonder why they invited the delegation led by our vice premier. We cannot but say that the South Korean authorities' real intent is to turn a blind eye to North-South cooperation and exchange, block the implementation of the North-South agreement, and, in the long run, hinder national reconciliation and reunification by using the nuclear issue as a pretext.

The South Korean authorities' ungentlemanly attempt to put a brake on the activities of the delegation led by our vice premier by using our nuclear issue can be called a strategy that they, embarrassed at the growing tendency among South Korean civilians to promote North-South economic cooperation and exchange, have adopted to prevent such cooperation and exchange. This is proven by the South Korean authorities tacitly threatening and warning business companies, saying that their excessive competition in promoting North-South economic cooperation and exchange will likely result in inefficiency and will hinder improving North-South relations.

What we cannot but add is the fact that even though the South Korean have invited the delegation led by our vice premier as guests, some South Korean media are groundlessly slandering us. In step with the authorities's confrontational and divisionist policy, some South Korean media in the past wrote and sold articles unhelpful to national reconciliation, unity, and reunification, thus contributing to inspiring confrontation and division. This time again, when the delegation led by our vice premier was visiting Seoul, some South Korean media found fault with the guests' affairs at home. This is truly insane. A spokesman for the delegation led by our vice premier protested this and warned the media to assume a cooperative attitude. This is just.

The delegation led by our side's vice premier is visiting Seoul to link the severed ties of the national economy and to promote the development of the national economy. This is the first such visit in the history of division, which has lasted almost half a century. It also attracts great attention and expectations of the domestic and foreign audience. Those who invited the guests must duly play their role as hosts.

Military Subcommittee Cochair Meeting Detailed

*SK2307155292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1521 GMT 23 Jul 92*

[Text] Panmunjom July 23 (KCNA)—A contact of co-chairmen of the military sub-commitee of the north-south high level talks was held at the Tongil House in the portion of the North side in Panmunjom today. At the contact the North side recalled that the South side is making it impossible even to make a smooth exchange of visiting groups of old parents and art troupes upon which an agreement was reached between the two sides by "shelving" the implementation of the North-South agreement, talking about the "nuclear issue", and warned that it would have to be responsible for the serious consequences to be entailed by its dastardly act. At the contact the sides discussed the drafts on the basis of the modified drafts of the annexed agreement produced by them but failed to achieve any success as the South side sticked to its far- fetched assertion about secondary and unessential matters quite contrary to the article on nonaggression of the North-South agreement.

While insisting on "confidence building" first of all, the south side objected to the North side's proposal on the main issues of preventing all deliberate acts of aggression, such as a stop to arms buildup in the area along the line of confrontation, a ban on all forms of reconnaissance and non-participation in a third nation's use of arms against the other party.

The South side came out with a foolish proposal devoid of national independence to solve the problem of nonaggression in disregard of the specific conditions of divided Korea on the basis of international law and the United Nations Charter applicable between countries.

The sides decided to hold a contact of members of the military subcommittee on August 3.

Full Inspection of Nuclear Weapons in ROK Urged

SK2407120292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0025 GMT 23 Jul 92

[NODONG SINMUN 23 July commentary: "The South Side Is Responsible"]

[Text] The seventh North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] meeting, which took place in our side's area of Panmunjom on 21 July, failed to make progress because of the South side's unjust and insincere attitude. The meeting attracted attention from home and abroad, however, because important facts were disclosed by the South side's attitude. The South side admitted that the declaration, which the South side has propagandized at home and abroad, was false and that the South side is fully responsible for the delayed discussions of issues for implementing the joint denuclearization declaration, principally because of its policy of relying on outside forces.

This is clearly proven by the fact that when our side asked the South side to state which was true—a recent U.S. announcement that it has withdrawn its nuclear weapons from South Korea or the South Korean ruler's declaration that there are no nuclear weapons—the South side refrained from answering the question. The South Korean ruler issued the so-called denuclearization declaration last December, but the United States, the owner of the nuclear weapons in South Korea, kept silent until 2 July. On that day, more than half a year after the declaration, the United States officially announced that it had withdrawn all tactical nuclear weapons from Europe and Asia. It also announced later that it had withdrawn its nuclear weapons from South Korea. The U.S. announcement has again proven that the South Korean chief executive's declaration was false. At a U.S. Congressional hearing last March, RisCassi, commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea, refused to say whether there are nuclear weapons in South Korea. At about the same time, the existence of secret U.S. nuclear weapons depots in South Korea was disclosed by one of the people who built them.

Our side said at the seventh North-South JNCC meeting: Bush has said that the United States has withdrawn all tactical nuclear weapons from Europe and Asia. In that case, what types of nuclear weapons did the United States withdraw from South Korea? How many? And when?

The South side's delegate groaned agonizingly and could not answer. All this shows that the South Korean chief executive's denuclearization declaration was false and they have concealed the U.S. nuclear weapons in violation of the joint denuclearization declaration. What is grave is that they, after being dumbfounded and at a loss for a while, unhesitatingly stated that they follow the U.S. policy of neither confirming nor denying the existence of nuclear weapons and that South Korea is still under the jurisdiction of this policy. The South side clearly showed that even though the North and South had promised before the nation that they would peacefully reunify the country without fighting each other, the South side has yet to abandon its vicious intention to pursue division and confrontation with outside forces based on the policy of strength. In this way, it also admitted that even today, when the world is walking along the road of independence and peace, the South Korean authorities are still a regime subjugated to the United States, a regime that is playing the role of a U.S. henchman after turning South Korea into a U.S. colony.

The South side's shameful gibberish is tantamount to the official declaration that it would not achieve denuclearization. This clearly shows how far its unchanging idea of relying on outside forces has gone. It has now become clear why the South side, after coming to the JNCC meetings without bringing a draft supplementary agreement, has so resolutely opposed the inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The South side presented what is called a draft supplementary agreement, though nominal and insubstantial, at the meeting, but this was nothing but an admission that the South side is responsible for the delayed discussions of issues at the JNCC meetings. At a time when the propaganda that there are no nuclear weapons has been proven false and when it has become clear who was responsible for the lack of progress, the South side must repent its insidious act of running counter to the era and hold a serious dialogue with us to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

What is important is for the South side to abandon its confrontational concept and anachronistic idea of casting away national independence and trying to gain something by following outside force. Because the United States announced that it has withdrawn its nuclear weapons from South Korea, the South Korean authorities must not turn a blind eye to a full inspection of those nuclear weapons and accept our fair and aboveboard draft rules of inspection without delay. The future of a solution to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula fully depends on the South side's attitude.

Japanese Build-up, Dispatch of SDF Berated

SK2407110692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 24 Jul 92

["Japan Rushes Headlong Toward Military Power"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—Japan's moves for arms buildup and dispatch of the "Self-Defense Forces (SDF)" overseas now vividly remind one of the time when the Japanese "Imperial Army" was advancing to the continent and south, crying for "greater East Asia co-prosperity sphere," says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

Noting that Japan has become a dangerous force of war in Asia, her military strength going far beyond the defence limits, the article says:

Japan's policy of building a military power finds salient manifestation in the constant growth of military spending. Her military expenditures have annually increased. They ran into 3,910,000 million yen in 1989, 4,160,000 million yen in 1990 and 4,440,000 million yen in 1991 to rank third in the world.

Japan is working hard to beef up the "SDF" with a staggering amount of military spending.

Her basic methods of strengthening the "SDF" are to train the soldiers on the active list on the level of commanders and modernize its military equipment.

The biggest aim of Japan is to become a nuclear weapon state.

Japan signed the 30-year term "Japan-U.S. Nuclear Cooperation Agreement" in November, 1987, and made a secret contract with the United States to purchase 85 tons of nuclear fuel intended for the development of nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

She intends to be a "world's military power possessed of nuclear weapons" in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Japanese authorities, however, should bear in mind that the road to a military power, the road to overseas aggression leads to self-destruction.

Importance of Chemical Industry Emphasized

SK2307043292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 20 Jul 92

[NODONG SINMUN 20 July editorial: "Let Us Continuously Direct Great Efforts to Development of Chemical Industry"]

[Text] One of our party's important goals in socialist construction is to realize the people's long-cherished desire to eat rice with meat soup, to wear silk clothes, and to live in a tile-roofed house.

For us to more satisfactorily solve the problem of food, clothing, and shelter and to constantly enhance the people's living standard, we should continuously direct great efforts to agriculture and light industry. To do this, we should more rapidly develop the chemical industry, which serves the rural economy and light industry.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The chemical industry sector should operate chemical plants at full capacity so that chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals required for agricultural production will be ensured on schedule and that chemical fibers and various raw materials will be satisfactorily guaranteed for light industrial plants.

It is a policy consistently maintained by our party to direct efforts to developing the chemical industry that serves light industry and the rural economy. Light industry and the rural economy are directly affect the people's livelihood.

In order for us to more satisfactorily resolve the problem of people's food, clothing, and shelter with our own strength in our country's condition where arable acreage is limited, we should increase agricultural production by increasing the utilization of arable land and should more satisfactorily supply raw materials and materials required in heavy industry, thus epochally increasing the production of consumer goods. To do this, we should develop the chemical industry.

Only when we increase the production of chemical fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and various chemical goods by developing the chemical industry can we increase agricultural production, including grain, by realizing a high degree of intensification in the rural economy and effect a turning point in the production of consumer goods, including fabrics and shoes, in light industry.

This year is one for extensive farming and is an important year during which we should effect a turning point in implementing the party's policy on the light industry revolution.

Today our party demands that we produce more chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals in the chemical industry and raw materials and materials for light industry and send them to the rural economy and light industry sectors.

Decisively increasing the production of chemical goods by directing efforts to development of the chemical industry is not merely a working-level task [silmujogin saop] for developing the chemical industry itself but is a very important task to highly display the genuine superiority of our nation's socialist system by more satisfactorily resolving the question of food, clothing, and shelter and by increasing the people's living standard.

For us to epochally increase the production of chemical fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and various chemical goods by directing efforts to developing the chemical industry, we should encourage functionaries and workers in this sector to tenaciously struggle with a lofty sense of responsibility.

Functionaries and workers of the chemical industry sector are vigorously taking charge of the highly responsible tasks in the important field to resolve the question of food, clothing, and shelter.

Our party's trust and expectations for functionaries and workers in this sector are very great. All functionaries and workers in the chemical industry sector should vigorously wage the struggle to normalize production at a high level by upholding the programmatic teachings given many times by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on increasing the production of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and chemical fibers, as well as the party's intentions.

Functionaries in this sector should more scrupulously do the work to organize and command production and thoroughly forge a plan to supply raw materials and materials so that they can make progress in producing vinalon, staple fibers, orlon, chemical fertilizers, and agricultural chemicals.

Such large chemical complexes as the 8 February Vinalon Complex, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the Sinhung Chemical Complex, the Sinuiju Chemical Fiber Complex, and the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex are assigned the heavy tasks of producing chemical goods. Functionaries at these complexes should properly carry out the combat organization in conformity with the high zeal of the working masses and solve difficult problems in a timely way so that they can leap forward in the production of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and various other chemical products.

In particular, relevant committees and ministries of the Administration Council, upholding the party's intent to concentrate efforts on the chemical industry, should operate all chemical facilities at full capacity by properly carrying out the planning work and dovetailing work.

Only when we give priority to the basic chemical industry can we rapidly develop the overall chemical industry. Thereby, we can increase the production of various chemical goods, including fertilizers and agricultural chemicals.

Chemical industry functionaries should cherish deep in their hearts that only when they increase the production of lactic aid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, caustic soda, and carbonic soda by concentrating their efforts on acid and alkali production can they increase the production of chemical goods, including chemical fertilizers and fibers. They should also vigorously struggle to increase the production of acid and alkali. For this, the chemical industrial sector should properly maintain and repair the production base of raw materials and provide, in a timely manner, the existing acid and alkali production plants with raw materials and materials.

For the present, the chemical industrial sector, along with the struggle to increase carbide production, should concentrate efforts on the work to modernize the existing carbide production plants.

The 8 February Vinalon Complex and the Sunchon Vinalon Complex should more positively struggle to increase carbide production. Properly managing the facilities is an important demand for effectively using the already built chemical industrial foundation and for normalizing production at a higher level.

Unlike other industrial sectors, many facilities consist of tanks and pipelines. In particular, the chemical industry, which is using a large amount of acid and alkali, should properly carry out facility management to normalize production at a higher level.

Functionaries and working people at the chemical plants and enterprises should properly and daily maintain, check, and repair facilities in response to the chemical industry's characteristics.

Chemical plants should correctly establish the facility management system for the working masses and decisively raise the level of machinists' technique and skill so that all machinists and producers can be well versed in the facilities they handle.

The appropriate supply of raw materials, materials, fuel, and power is an important demand for operating chemical plants at full capacity.

The mining and power industrial sectors, which provide the chemical industry with raw materials, materials, and power, should produce and supply coal, limestone, apatite, and power in a timely way and preferentially.

The transportation sector should carry out transportation organizational work to transport raw materials, fuel, and materials in a timely manner. Developing the chemical industry based on raw materials in our country is an important policy for our party to follow to in developing the chemical industry.

Only when we develop the chemical industry based on raw materials available in our country can we firmly guarantee its independence and stability. Moreover, the raw materials and fuel issue is considered serious in the world. This requires us to more thoroughly implement the party's policy of developing the chemical industry based on raw materials and materials available in our county.

Functionaries, scientists, and technicians in the chemical industry should steadily increase the use of natural resources, including coal and limestone, as raw materials in the chemical industry, by further extensively conducting research to effectively use them. In particular, great effort should be made for the work of increasing the use of coal and carbide.

Party organizations at various levels in the chemical industry and other related sectors should have functionaries and the working people make a great upsurge in the production of chemical fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, chemical fibers, and other chemical products, while fully explaining to them the significance and importance of developing the chemical industry and its role in scientifically and technologically farming according to the demand of the chuche farming method and in carrying out the light industrial revolution.

All functionaries, upholding the party's intent, should effect a great upsurge in the light industrial revolution and in agricultural production by constantly concentrating efforts on the development of the chemical industry.

South Korea

North's Kim Tal-hyon Ends Tour of Industries

SK2407042392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0258 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)——North Korean Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon wound up a four-day tour of southeastern industrial and historic sites Friday and flew back to Seoul.

While waiting to board at Kimhae airport near Pusan, Kim joked that airlines might have trouble finding passengers once the high-speed railway from Seoul to Pusan was completed.

Kim made a favorable evaluation of his tour around industrial facilities and showed off an extensive knowledge of shipbuilding.

On the plane, Kim was warmly welcomed by the flight attendents and presented with a tie, scarf and watch.

—Kim had a friendly dinner thursday with Pusan Mayor Kim Yong-hwan. The meal started at 8 P.M. and lasted more than two and a half hours, an hour longer than scheduled.

Kim had everyone in stitches when he said: "Giving an address at a dinner is strictly prohibited in law in China, but I cannot help doing it here because everybody is Korean."

During the dinner conversation, Kim occasionally expressed personal views: "The Korean people have a 5,000-year history and cannot differ from each other just because of a mere 50 years of national division" and "what I felt most of all is that blood is thicker than water."

As the dinner came to an end, Kim stood up and belted out "Forget-Me-Not," a song requested by the mayor.

—During a visit to Daewoo Heavy Industries in Changwon, Kim showed particular interest in ultramodern production systems, including robotics and laser processing machines.

He paid special attention to automated production lines at a factory that turns out a variety of machines.

"North Korea produces a variety of machines on hand-controlled lines, unlike the computer-controlled ones run by Daewoo," Kim acknowledged.

Though tired from a tight schedule and scorching weather, Kim made no complaint.

Looking around car assembly lines, he confided to company executives his impression that the lines were more modern and the employees were working harder than at a Swedish car producer.

The North Koreans made a tour through a mammoth shipyard belonging to Daewoo Business Group on Koje Island, arriving there by helicopter.

In a talk with Daewoo Chairman Kim U-chung at the shipyard, the North Korean technocrat seemed surprised that annual turnover was 700 billion won or nearly 900 U.S. million dollars.

After touring the shipyard, Kim was escorted to a nearby elementary school and talked with the teachers. There were no pupils as it is the summer holidays. In a computer room, Kim asked about computer education with much interest and showed broad knowledge of South Korea's educational system.

Kim also visited a Daewoo hospital and showed a keen interest in the medical and other benefits for workers at Daewoo. He told the chairman that he was impressed with the cleanliness of the shipyard and thanked him for a wonderful time.

Before heading for the shipyard, Kim looked around a footwear factory in Pusan and kept a watchful eye on production lines for one hour.

Touching jogging and tennis shoes, Kim asked what they were.

"The biggest problem during my visit was with shoes," Kim told a company executive, asking him to make as many comfortable shoes as possible.

In a lunch given by the company, Kim made a proposal for a joint venture.

"Such companies as Hwasung are most appropriate for joint ventures between North and South Korea, because they can make the most of North Korea's labor force and South Korea's expertise," he said.

In between stops, a member of the North Korean entourage asked his South Korean guides what driving ranges were for and who used them.

No Tae-u Holds Meeting With Kim Tal-hyon

Receives Message From Kim Il-song

SK2407072792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u promised North Korean Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon to dispatch a feasibility study team to Nampo for a light industrial complex when they met at Chongawadae [presidential house] on Friday, senior Presidential Secretary Kim Chong-hwi said.

During the 50-minute meeting, No received a verbal message from North Korean President Kim Il-song in which Kim asked after No and requested South Korean cooperation for the establishment of the complex in Nampo, near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

"It is significant that our deputy premier visits the South at a time when the North-South agreement on basic relations is in effect. I hope this visit will proceed successfully," the North Korean president's message was quoted as saying.

In reply, the South Korean president inquired after the North Korean leader and delivered his guest a verbal message, stressing the need for resolution of the nuclear issue in order to realize the inter-Korean economic cooperation that Kim Il-song hopes to see, the sources said.

No told Choe Kak-kyu, South Korean deputy premier and head of the Economic Planning Board, who was on hand at the meeting, to discuss details about the dispatch of the feasibility study team with Kim Tal-hyon before the North Korean left for home Saturday.

Contrary to popular speculation, Kim Tal-hyon did not have a written message from Kim Il-song, government sources added.

The No-Kim meeting was followed by a luncheon for the North Korean deputy premier and his entourage, who are winding up a week- long tour of industrial plants and historical sites in South Korea.

No praised efforts on both sides for continuing dialogue following the signing of the inter-Korean agreement on basic relations. But he pointed out North Korea's nuclear development program was causing anxiety and suspicion not only in the South but throughout the world.

The president said the North Korean nuclear program violated the spirit of the joint declaration for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

No then emphasized that North Korea should accept the proposed mutual inspections of each other's nuclear and military facilities with the South.

In response, Kim Tal-hyon stressed the need for economic cooperation for progress and prosperity of the entire Korean people and for reunification of the country.

"I will convey, without fail, President No's will for reunification to President Kim and Comrade Leader Kim Chong-il," he said.

"From my talks with the businessmen in the South, I got the impression that the economies of the North and South can be complementary to each other. As an official of the North, I've felt a sense of mission and responsibility," he said.

The No-Kim talks were attended by, on the southern side, Deputy Premier Choe, Yi Sang-yon, director of the Agency for National Security Planning, and Kim Chong-hwi, senior presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security.

On the northern side were Yi Song-tae, 54, a trade councilor in China, and Kim Tong-kuk, 50, a guidance member of the Administration Council.

Meanwhile, it was belatedly learned Friday that shortly after the North Korean deputy premier arrived in Seoul July 19, top South Korean Government officials visited him at the Hilton Hotel and exchanged views on overall inter-Korean relations.

At the meeting, officials explained to the visitor the South Korea government's position for the resolution of the nuclear issue.

YONHAP Provides 'Gist' of Meeting

SK2407092892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0901 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u told visiting North Korean Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon in their meeting Friday that South Korea wanted to invest more in North Korea than in Russia or China. Following is the gist of the talks between No and Kim.

No: A fierce economic war is going on around the world nowadays. For a small country like ours to win this war, the South and North should cooperate.

Kim: At the time of my departure from Pyongyang, President Kim (Il-song) gave me a verbal message for President No. (He takes out a memo from an envelope and reads President Kim's message.) The president asked me to convey warm greetings to President No. He said it was significant that a deputy premier of the Administration Council visits the South when the North-South agreement (on basic relations) is in effect and said he hoped this visit would proceed successfully.

No: Thank you. When (you) return, I hope (you) will pass my regards to President Kim. The South and North are still in a stage of confrontation and, if we fail to overcome this state, we will be bringing misfortune to the people and committing a historical sin.

To enhance the pride of our people and to win in this era of hectic competition, we should not hope for the other side to fail but seek co-prosperity. The only way to do this is by putting an end to confrontation.

When we become one, we will be a country of 70 million people. We will have 10 million fewer people than unified Germany but 10 million more people than Britain, Italy or France.

Our people have unlimited potential. We should realize reunification through South-North cooperation within this century at the latest. I believe there is a way for South-North cooperation when we recognize and respect each other's systems.

Kim: I will convey, without fail, your excellency's will for reunification to President Kim Il-song. We also hope to come out of the confrontation and cooperate and to link the cooperation to reunification.

The reason I've come to the South is, in a broad sense, for reunification, and in a narrow sense, to find a breakthrough for economic cooperation and practice it. I think if we agree on a few pilot projects and carry them out, that would help the progress of dialogue and the development of the national economy.

In relation to this, I hope (you) will help for the progress of the Nampo light industrial complex project.

No: As of the end of June, our overseas investment amounted to 5.2 billion (U.S.) dollars in some 2,300 cases... We also want to make more investment and joint ventures in the North, where there are our own people, than in Russia or China.

To our regret, however, the investment environment is not yet ripe in the North. Investment environment does not simply mean economic environment but non-economic concerns are very important.

I hope you will clearly understand that my basic position is that South-North joint ventures and investment projects can become active when the issue of mutual nuclear inspection is resolved, South-North joint commissions are officially launched and the economic and non- economic factors are cleared.

No: I understand that President Kim said (the North) does not have nuclear (weapons) nor plan to manufacture them. If so, can't the South and North confirm it? Then the stumbling blocks hampering implementation of what the North wants can be cleared right away.

About the Nampo light industrial complex, I think it can be dealt with in a joint commission for economic exchange once the nuclear issue is resolved and a supplementary agreement is adopted. However, I Will direct (officials) to send our specialists to the North and study it in a pre-economic cooperation stage.

(Watching Kim and his South Korean counterpart, Deputy Premier Choe Kak-kyu) You two deputy premiers discuss the details when you meet.

Kim: I will. Let me talk about my observation of the industrial facilities. I was deeply impressed by the ambition and the spirit to leap forward of the southern businessmen. From my talks with them, I got the impression that economies in the North and South can complement each other.

The southern businessmen will invest in the North for profits... (I will let them) gain profits. As an official of the North, I feel a sense of mission and responsibility.

No: I think it is very important to see the South with your own eyes. When you return, I hope you will make efforts to early settle the nuclear issue and the question of supplementary agreement so that South-North economic cooperation can go into full swing. Various talks are under way between the two sides but the speed falls short of expectations...South and North should come out of the zero-sum thinking.

The two sides can develop a cooperative relationship only by sincerely practicing the agreement on basic relations and the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula....

I hope you will convey my best regards and thinking about the basic agreement and nuclear issue to president Kim.

Kim: Thank you. I will, without fail.

No Tae-U Urges Resolution of Nuclear Issue

SK2407102292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0951 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u's talks with visiting North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon lasted 20 more minutes than planned 30 minutes until 12:20 P.M., which was immediately followed by Chongwadae luncheon through 1:30 P.M.

When Kim verbally conveyed Kim Il-song's personal regards to President No, he took a memo from a large envelop he placed on a table beside him, read it and put it back into the envelope.

When Kim referred to Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, he invariably used the honorifics "beloved" and "dear" as they do in the North.

Throughout the meeting, President No repeatedly emphasized the importance of non-economic environment for inter-Korean economic cooperation, calling for early resolution of the nuclear issue and auxiliary agreements.

In response, Kim Tal-hyon said if and when the two sides agree on and undertake several pilot economic projects, it would be helpful to the progress of dialogue and also to the development of national economy.

"There is no realistic way of stopping them," he says.

Besides which, Yi says, trying to acquire an offensive capability is a waste of time. Nuclear weapons are useless in an area like the Korean peninsula because they would kill everyone on both sides if they were used.

Inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and inter-Korean inspection on sites accepted by the two sides would be enough to prevent nuclear armament, which was why economic cooperation and not the nuclear problem should be the chief interest, he says.

Kim Tae-u, senior researcher at the Korea Institute for Defense Analysis, says he wants to see the government change its policy of linking the nuclear issue with economic cooperation.

"From a defense line of reasoning, we should counter North Korea's nuclear problem with the worst scenario in mind. But to link the nuclear issue with inter-Korean economic cooperation and exchanges runs contrary to the national interest," he says.

"I don't agree that South-North Korean relations will proceed smoothly once the nuclear controversy is settled," the researcher adds. "The United States still has many hidden cards it can use to make problems regarding North Korea, such as the missile sales control and chemical weapons ban."

U.S. Undersecretary of State Arnold Kanter met with South Korean foreign minister in Seoul in May and brought up a relatively a new subject—North Korean membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

The United States has since found fault with North Korea's human rights situation and said Pyongyang must join global efforts to eradicate biological weaponry.

Kim Nam-sik, a researcher at the Institute of Peace Studies, says he remembers how the United States called for inspections after North Korea signed and ratified the nuclear safeguards accord.

After North Korea accepted IAEA inspection, the United States demanded inter-Korean mutual inspection, especially challenge inspection with 24 hours notice. And then added missile sales and human rights issues.

The U.S. action may be understood as Washington looking out for its national interests.

"I cannot but ask, however, whether the South Korean Government, like the United States, implements policies as an independent nation in pursuit of national and public interests," Kim says.

'Secret Talks' Reportedly Held With Kim Tal-hyon

SK2407011692 Seoul HANGUK ILBO
in Korean 24 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 23 July that a high-level figure [choegowikup insa] of our government secretly met with Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier of the North Korean Administration Council who is now visiting Seoul, on the night of 19 July and exchanged a broad range of views on overall North-South issues.

At the talks, the two figures discussed the contents of messages to be exchanged between top figures of the North and South and the content of our side's call for the North side's resolute political decision to resolve the nuclear issue—the greatest stumbling block in North-South exchanges.

This secret talk, held prior to Vice Premier Kim's meeting with President No Tae-u, is noteworthy because it was held at a time when an opinion was raised stressing that political decisions between North-South top figures are inevitable in a bid to provide a breakthrough in resolving at an early date the presently deadlocked issue of North Korea's nuclear development and in resolving North- South exchanges and cooperation including economic cooperation.

Our side's figure visited Vice Premier Kim's room in the Hilton Hotel as soon as the banquet was over and reportedly held talks with him for about 1 hour and 30 minutes. The banquet was arranged by Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu in honor of North Korean Vice Premier Kim and his party at Hyatt Hotel at 1900 on 19 July.

On that day, escorted by a Daewoo Group official, our side's official went to Vice Premier Kim's room on the 21st floor of the Hilton Hotel via an underground parking lot and an emergency elevator and that the two people had a one-on-one conversation.

It appears that our side's official and Vice Premier Kim discussed the contents and type of letters to be exchanged between North and South Korea's top leaders when President No Tae-u meets Vice Premier Kim and that they exchanged views on the nuclear issue, economic cooperation, and other North-South relations issues.

It appears that our side's official explained in particular about the North-South nuclear negotiations, which have been deadlocked, in which North Korea under the international circumstances has no alternative but to accept North-South mutual inspections. It also appears that our side fully explained that its demand for inspection of military bases and special inspection [tukpyolsachal] is not intended to render North Korean military bases powerless.

It appears that our side's official expressed our government's position that if the nuclear issue is resolved, economic cooperation and cooperation in other fields will be accelerated and that he also asked Vice Premier Kim to convey to North Korean President Kim Il-song President

No's view that it is necessary for President Kim to make a resolute political decision toward this end.

Military Subcommittee Meeting Detailed

SK2307111192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1030 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Panmunjom, July 23 (YONHAP)—The chairmen of the South-North Military Subcommittee met at Panmunjom Thursday to carry on debate on an auxiliary protocol to be adopted in the area of non- aggression.

In their meeting at Tong-ilkak in the northern sector of this truce village, the two sides exchanged opinions on their respective basic stands to lay a groundwork for adjusting words of the proposed accord.

Meanwhile, at Thursday's meeting the North Korean chairman demanded the suspension of the "Focus Lens" joint Korea-U.S. training exercise slated for next month.

Rejecting the demand, the southern chairman said the "Focus Lens" has been an annual defensive drill.

He countered that conditions could be laid for the development of inter-Korean relations only when North Korea dispels misgivings about its suspected nuclear arms development.

The two chairmen decided to hold a subcommittee members contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom on August 3 to continue discussions on the proposed agreement.

No Agreement Reached on National Assembly

SK2307115092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0849 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and two opposition parties failed Thursday to narrow their differences in their bid to normalize the National Assembly.

At a meeting mediated by speaker of the national assembly Pak Chyon-kyu, floor leaders Kim Yong-tae of the DLP, Yi Chol of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] and Kim Chong-nam of the Unification National Party [officially renamed United People's Party] made no progress as they stuck to their original positions with regard to the local election issue.

The timing of elections for provincial governors and big city mayors has been the stumbling block for the National Assembly, which has been inactive for more than three weeks since it was inaugurated in late June.

The Democratic Party refuses to attend the first sitting of the assembly unless the government and the ruling party agree to hold the local elections this year in order to insure a clean and fair presidential election in December. The Democratic Party, however, showed some flexibility when it said it will consider attending a conference of top leaders of the three parties to find a breakthrough in the current deadlock. The conference was proposed by the DLP and the DP said it will make its final decision through a debate of its members.

President No Tae-u, meanwhile, expressed his regret over a vote counting mishap in the last general elections. In a ballot recount supervised by the Supreme Court on Monday, a ruling party representative lost his seat in the National Assembly to a Democratic Party candidate in the Nowon-B constituency of Seoul.

No instructed the Central Election Management Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the miscount and punish those responsible for the mistake.

No gave his instruction during his regular weekly meeting with DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae Thursday.

The president warned, however, it was improper for any party to "try and take advantage of such a simple human error for political purposes."

Opposition Demands Reinvestigation of Land Fraud

SK2407021592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Opposition parties yesterday demanded a reinvestigation into the controversial multi-billion won land swindle case, claiming that the prosecution had manipulated the investigation results to conceal others involved in the fraud.

The prosecution said in its conclusion that they had found no "wirepullers" behind the swindlers including Kim Yong-ho, a retired Army colonel, and Chong Konchung, head of a construction firm.

In a statement issued by its spokesman, the main opposition Democratic Party said that conclusion of the case as a "simple" land fraud ridicules the public which wants the entire truth about the real estate scam.

The spokesman, Chang Sok-hwa, alleged that the prosecution is attempting to cover up the involvement of high-level officials in the case.

For example, he said, prosecutors failed to probe former Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku. Yi reportedly had pushed the sale of the land owned by the Army Intelligence Command when he headed the Defense ministry from October 1990 to December last year and later called off the plan without approval from the President.

Chang called for a thorough investigation into top officials of the First Life Insurance Co., including President Ha Yong-ki.

He alleged that the insurance company had paid a large sum to the swindlers for promises to approve the sale by key government officials.

The No. 2 opposition United Peoples' Party issued a similar statement, charging that the prosecution's announcement on its probe into the land scandal only revealed the government's lack of credibility and morality.

Spokesman Pyon Chong-il asked why the insurance company made a contract to buy the land at a higher than the market price.

Pyon contended that the prosecution also failed to reveal how the 6.6 billion won paid by the insurance company was used and why the swindlers turned themselves in to the police so willingly.

Education Official Linked to Suspect

SK2407025992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] A ranking official of the Education Ministry has been found to have taken a huge "loan" from one of the main figures involved in the multi-billion-won military land procurement scam.

According to state prosecutors yesterday, Chong Kon-chung, the arrested chairman of Sung Moo Construction Co., loaned Kim U-sang, a university education supervisor, 150 million won between April and May when the land fraud was underway.

The investigation showed that Kim was introduced to Chong by a Prof. Paek of Inchon University and the two maintained a close relationship while consulting on the establishment of the Chungwon University for Engineering.

Chong, who holds a pseudo doctorate in philosophy from an unaccredited university in the United States was initially given approval to set up the university before it was revoked on the basis that he was did not hold proper qualifications.

The prosecutors are directing their probe on the suspicion that the loan was made out to Kim in return for peddling influence in Chong's bid to establish the university.

Kim, however, said in an overnight interrogation Wednesday that the money was simply a loan from a close friend and that he had written promissory notes as guarantee that he would pay it back.

Based on the timing of the loan and the fact that it is a considerable amount of money, the prosecutors believe that there is more of an intention than just a loan on the part of both Kim and Chong.

Initially, the prosecutors were investigating the possibility of the involvement of powerful political and military figures in the land scam but Kim has thus far been the only one that has been implicated.

Defense Minister Absolves Himself of Blame

SK2307154892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0927 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang expressed a regret Thursday over the recent financial scam over the land of the Army Intelligence Command.

"Although the incident turned out to be a fraud perpetrated by several individuals, I regret it because Kim Yong-ho, who had been in the Army for some 30 years, defrauded people over the land of a military installation," the minister said.

Choe told reporters that "since my ministry was not involved in the scandal, I feel no need to shoulder any moral or political responsibility."

However, he said, "Since a controversy had developed over a military property, our ministry would reflect on itself and believes there should be some institutional steps to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents."

As part of such measures, the Defense Ministry would in the future announce planned relocation of all major military installations before disposing of lands and other properties of moving military outfits, he said.

A ministry official said that work is going on presently to rewrite the law on state properties and other related laws as a means of forestalling the outbreak of a similar fraud.

* Chong Chu-yong's Party Said Disintegrating

922C0175A Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 29 May 92 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Chu-myong: "Is It the Fault of DLP 'Maneuvers' or of Chairman Chong's 'Arbitrariness'?"]

[Text] Because of the continuing "bolting-the-party rumors" of National Party (NP) assemblymen winners of the 14th general elections, the party is suffering a round of internal conflicts.

The proliferation of such rumors about bolting the party, and some specific indications of leaving the party, have been whipped up by an enticement campaign of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), centering principally about Party Chairman Kim Yong-sam. Persons associated with the NP claim that the number of elected assemblymen rumored to be bolting the party now number 10 and that the reason the resulting intra-party conflicts have grown serious is in a word "Kim Yong-sam's political campaign and press play," and they claim that "actually, almost no one is going to bolt the party."

In the background of the proliferation of party-bolting rumors, is deep-seated dissatisfaction with the unilateral party management methods of NP chairman Chong Chu-yong, however, and the scale of financial support that "does not meet expectations." It does not appear that this will be easily alleviated. Except for one or two persons who refrained from clearly expressing their own opinions, the majority of the major players are denying it. Even so, the party-bolting rumors continue to spread and show their vigor.

Dissatisfaction on the part of politicians, especially the elected officials, is that Chairman Chong—just as when he directed the Hyundai Group—arbitrarily hands down major policy decisions on party operations after discussion with only some of his confidants from Hyundai, and that the party's formal machinery serves only as a formalistic rubber stamp. Regional party chairmen, including elected officials, grumble that they joined the NP because they had hoped for adequate financial support, but they have been unable to obtain sufficient funding support.

On the other side of the coin, party officials with a Hyundai background are filled with exasperation that these professional politicians only want funds and other support and do not perform the role required by the organization of the NP.

Chairman Chong and his party officials from Hyundai, however, figure they have no choice but to attract professional politicians, particularly elected officials, into the party in order to make "President Chong chu-yong." So they have recently prepared and instituted measures to pacify the dissatisfaction by: naming all elected officials as party executive members; providing regional party operating expenses of 6 million won per month; and regularizing joint meetings of the party supreme council members and advisors. But the results are still up in the air.

Among the elected persons named in the rumors about bolting the party are: Cho Yun-hyong, national constituency supreme council member; advisor Yang Sun-chik; former DLP Democratic Party faction member Pak Hui-pu (Yongi); Yun Yong-tak (Taegu Susongul); Kim Chan-u (Chongsong-Yongdok); former DLP Republic Party Faction member, Secretary General Kim Hyo-yong (Tonghae); Chong Tae-yong (Kumsan); Won Kwang-ho (Wonju); Songyong-chin (Tangjin); Kim Pom-myong (Nonsan); Yun Hangyol (Kwangmyong); and Yi Ho-chong (Suwon, Changan).

As yet only Supreme Council Member Cho Yun-hyong shows signs that he actually is bolting the party, however. Supreme Council Member Cho early this week submitted a letter of resignation from his post as supreme council member through an assistant, but it was returned because the secretariat refused to accept it. It is known that he has recently cut off all contacts with the party and has conveyed his intention to leave the party to Chairman Chong through indirect channels. He is considered the most likely to actually leave the party.

On the other side of the coin, advisor Yang Sun-chik, who did not attend the supreme council-advisory board meeting and had been figured to bolt the party, attended a seminar of elected officials that was held in the Olympia Hotel on 28 May, which suggests he will resume his party duties. He had been intensively lobbied by Supreme Council Member Kim Kwang-il previously, and he met with reporters at the seminar that day and put down the party-bolting rumors saying, "Since I am one of the founders of the party, how could I do such a thing? First of all, I plan to do my best to revamp the party." Adviser Yang also denied not only the word on the street that he would join the DLP, but also the rumor that he would join the Democratic Party, saying "It has been reported that I met with Democratic Party Supreme Council member Kim Sang-hyon, but this is not true."

Besides him, the majority today denied the stories. Concerning rumors of his own leaving the party, elected official Pak Hui-pu leaped to his feet and said, "That is nonsense." Elected official Yun Hang-yol also retorted, "Who is saying that?"

In view of the situation, the fact that some NP elected officials are wavering is certain, but it appears too early to interpret this as "the disintegration of the NP" or "indications of a small reorganization of the political landscape" as some segments of the political world are claiming.

But, the mutual distrust between the elected officials and the Hyundai party officials stemming from the recent explosion of "party-bolting rumors" is severe. As long as the NP is unable to overcome this by some means, there is a strong likelihood it will keep Chairman Chong busy until the presidential elections at the end of the year.

As long as the party management style of Chairman Chong—who thinks of his party's elected members of the National Assembly as if they were hired Hyundai employees—is not fundamentally revised and as long as the sense of dissimilarity in social background, especially between the Hyundai party officials and the political party elected officials, is not eradicated, it is certain that the "Good Ship National Party," which has embarked on its great circle voyage to supreme government power will continue to be battered by turbulent waves.

Burma

Rebels Claim Government Using Chemical Weapons

BK2407015792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 92 p A4

[Text] Anti-Rangoon Kachin guerrillas have accused the Burmese Army of using chemical weapons against them in northwestern Kachin State near the Indian border. It would be the first use of chemical weapons against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the group said. The KIA, based in the rugged mountainous area, is one of a dozen armed ethnic groups which have been fighting in border areas during the past four decades for greater autonomy from the Burmese government. However, there was not any hard evidence [to support] the KIA claims.

The accusations were based on testimony given by porters and Burmese Army troops arrested during clashes, according to Brang Seng, chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization which is the political wing of the KIA.

The Burmese Army began its offensive in Kachin State in April, about the same time it announced a unilateral ceasefire with Karen guerrillas in southern Karen State. However, the Karen said the retreat was a result of heavy casualities.

The Kachin accusations came after Burmese ground and air assaults on the Indian-Burmese border to recapture the villages of Pang Sau and Nam Yung which the KIA had captured from Burmese Army forces on June 5. Brang Seng said Burmese Army, operating out of a base in Danai township, had used air strikes and bombed the two villages. Under interrogation, captured Burmese porters and troops said they had been told to retreat 300 metres from the frontline as Burmese aircraft were going to drop "gas weapons".

"It is the first time they (Burmese Army) have used the gas weapon. However, we don't have any evidence as all those shells missed our positions," he said.

The KIA, in capturing the villages, had taken 27 Burmese prisoners of war, five of whom were released on June 21 and the rest on June 30, he said. The Kachin chairman said the prisoners had said they "were told in radio messages to move back 300 metres from the frontline as the Burmese planes were preparing to use a new kind of gas weapon for the first time."

The relevant Burmese word in the radio communications was Datnwake (gas) said another Kachin representative. Burmese ethnic dissidents have previously accused the Burmese Army of using chemical weapons, especially in the Shan State, but the groups could not provide evidence to prove the allegations.

Brang Seng said the Burmese Army, in another first against the KIA, employed paratroopers in its attack, dispatching 200 in three helicopters on June 7 to the battlegrounds. The heavy air raids forced the KIA troops to withdraw from Nam Yung and Pang Saw on June 15 and July 2 respectively, he said. The villages are located on strategic Ledo Road, which was built by the Allies during World War II as a main supply route from Assam in India to northern Burma.

He said 20 KIA troops were killed and 24 wounded in the battle. The KIA captured a large amount of weapons and ammunition including 95 assorted M16s, German-made G2, G3 and G4 machine-guns, about 20,000 rounds of ammunition, 42 tons of rice supplies and more than 1.4 million Kyat from the two villages.

The KIA's capture of the villages and seizure of arms and supplies blocked the initial Burmese plan to move on to attack a KIA strategic outpost at Pinawang Zup on the Indian-Burmese frontier, he said.

Brang Seng said 18 Burmese troops under the command of Maj Than Soe fled from Pang Sau village into India and surrendered to the Assam Rifles, handing over their arms and a wireless set. All were later released, he said. More than 100 villagers also fled to India during the clashes, he added.

The Kachin chairman said he believed the Burmese attack on this western Kachin front with India was aimed at cutting off "all our access to the outside world," and disrupting the Indian-Kachin relations.

The KIA had earlier abandoned its 3rd Brigade headquarters on the Sino-Burmese border after heavy Burmese attacks.

Opposition Leader Urges Support for Democracy

BK2307154992 (Clandestine) Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 22 Jul 92

["Opening address" by Dr. Sein Win, prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, at the inauguration of the "Democratic Voice of Burma" radio station in Oslo, Norway on 14 June—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed public, today is an auspicious day for all the people of Burma, the struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma, and national solidarity among national races. Today is the first time in the 50 years of modern Burmese history that a free broadcast program in accordance with the genuine desires of the people has been made. It is not an easy task to implement.

The Norwegian Government and the majority of the Norwegian public have allowed the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma [NCGUB], on behalf of the democratic forces in Burma, to broadcast. This is to show their sympathy for the loss of human rights, the difficulties faced, and the violation of the democratic rights of the Burmese people. From this place, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Norwegian Government and people for their sympathies and their decisive stance.

Esteemed public, today the entire Burmese public is facing various difficulties. The one and only way to get out of this crisis is to fulfill the true wishes of the Burmese people. The true wishes of the Burmese people were openly expressed at the elections held on 27 May 1990. The main responsibility for fulfilling the desires of the public lies with: 1. The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], 2. the democratic forces, and 3. the defense services.

Esteemed public, today the SLORC is talking about holding a national convention and drawing up a new constitution. If the SLORC has genuinely good intentions for the country, it should quickly release all political prisoners, hold discussions with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for national reconciliation as soon as possible, stop the civil war, and hold discussions with leaders of the national races. The national convention and the new constitution will have no meaning at all if they cannot perform these tasks.

By looking at the democratic forces' Gandhi Declaration [the declaration on a transfer of power made by elected National League for Democracy representatives at a meeting held at the Gandhi Memorial Hall in Rangoon in July 1990]; the decisive principles and policies of the Democratic Alliance of Burma [DAB]; and the principles and policies adopted for proposed meetings and discussions, one can clearly see that the democratic forces never say no to anything that is for the good of the country. SLORC should also officially respond to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's invitation to hold discussions for national reconciliation. As you know, the decisive principles and declarations prove that the NCGUB has never closed the door to peace.

Finally, I would like to speak to the defense services. In accordance with the prevailing historical situation, the defense services are mainly responsible for the betterment of Burma and the fulfillment of the desires of the country. The idea that the defense services must obey orders and fulfill every command is not applicable to the present situation in Burma and contrasts with the prevailing practices of defense services in other countries. The defense services must analyze every action to see whether it is beneficial to the people or harms the public, whether it is in accordance with defense service discipline or just reckless, and whether they are for the interests of the populace or the interests of an individual, group, or organization.

If we all work together, knowing our own responsibilities and striving for the benefit of the country, we can quickly overcome the present crisis in Burma. I would like to conclude by urging the esteemed public to join hands with us in trying to fulfill the desires and wishes of the people in the march to reach our goal, which is democracy.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Chief Denies ASEAN in Arms Race

BK2407091592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0716 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The purchase of arms by ASEAN countries should not be viewed as an arms race in this region, Chief of Defence Forces General Yaacob Zain said Friday.

He said ASEAN countries including Malaysia were only acquiring weapons to complement the national defence system and meet the shortages they were experiencing.

"There is no arms race here and I am sure one will not occur," he told reporters here.

Malaysia, he said, bought military weapons to replace old ones and to meet current needs.

Yaacob said physical evaluation of the MIG 29 built by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had been carried out and now the RMAF [Royal Malaysian Air Force] was assessing the aircraft's support system.

These evaluation studies were important before a decision was made on whether to buy them, he said.

The MIG 29's performance and features meet the needs of the RMAF, he added.

He said the RMAF proposed to set up two fighter squadrons in addition to the ones in Butterworth and Kuantan.

Asked about the cost of the MIG 29, he said "It's cheaper than the fighter planes produced in western countries."

"However, we have been informed that the maintenance costs of the MIG 29 may be higher than its competitors built in western countries," Yaacob said.

He was not sure which aircraft the RMAF would purchase.

PRC's Decision Over Spratlys Claim Welcomed

BK2307142792 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Jul 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Being United by the Spratlys"]

[Text] The decision by China to shelve its claim of sovereignty over the Spratly Islands for an indefinite period and to discuss possible joint economic exploitation activities in the area is a clear case of diplomatic pragmatism.

There is merit in the idea of turning a potential conflict into a co-operative venture instead of holding interminable parleys on the sovereignty and maritime boundary disputes, which may be interjected with hostility and rhetorical fire.

China's decision might have far-reaching effects on the security of the Asia-Pacific region. With the sovereignty issue being shelved, all the claimants to the islands should also freeze their claims. This would mean that they have to put aside the overlapping claims to the maritime jurisdictional zones for the time being.

The implication is that the relevant parties should stop any further annexation and work for the non-militarisation of and withdrawal of military forces from the islands. Such a step would require all parties to adopt confidence-building measures to reduce existing tensions and prevent the occurrence of military conflict.

Negotiating a multilateral agreement for the common exploitation of and sharing of the Spratlys oil and gas resources, which are believed to be far superior to those of the British North Sea oilfields, is a better option than negotiating on the sovereignty issue. What must be recognised is that the development of those resources cannot be done alone without creating unhappiness among others.

Neither can the distribution of the resources be divided on the basis of invisible lines drawn by man. That is why the claimants should develop the islands in a spirit of co-operation and mutual accommodation for the sake of peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Such a move would augur wel for greater economic integration among the countries in the region. The joint economic activities are marine oil and gas exploration and resource management, marine research and environmental protection programmes as well as a navigational safety programme along the major sealanes amidst the Spratlys. Of course, the sharing of benefits would require the signing of a joint-income distribution agreement.

What the parties must realise is that it is realistic to jointly exploit the Spratlys than to jointly possess it. At this point in time, it is better to adopt a conciliatory approach in negotiating a fair settlement of the dispute.

However, in formulating the multilateral economic arrangement of the Spratlys, it is hoped the parties will not adopt the Atlantic Treaty as a model. The Spratlys cannot be internationalised because, unlike the case of the Atlantic, it is not at all tem nullius (land belonging to no country).

Clearly, the emphasis is to find ways to co-operate without broaching the sensitive subject a ownership. The Spratlys issue, if no compromise is taken, promise to be an explosive one. The region does not need an outbreak of military clashes such as the one between China and Vietnam at the Gac Ma Reef in 1988.

The claimants must exercise restraint and work for the common good of the region since any adverse development in the South China Sea would affect the region's security. They must face the issue in a spirit of seeking compromise through dialogue and consultation.

Cambodia

Supreme National Council Holds Session 23 Jul

BK2307145392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Announcer-read report on the 15th meeting of the Supreme National Council held in Phnom Penh on 23 Jul]

[Text] At 0900 on the morning of 23 July, the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia solemnly held its 15th meeting at the Khemarin Palace in the Royal Palace under the lofty chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, father of the nation, and chairman of the SNC; and His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

The SNC members in attendance were H.E. Dit Munti, minister of information and press of the State of Cambodia [SOC]; H.E. Hor Namhong, SOC minister of foreign affairs; H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers; H.E. Im Chhunlim, SOC minister of education; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] Party; H.E. Khieu Samphan, representative of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea; H.E. General Tie Banh, SOC minister of national defense; and H.E. Ieng Muli, representative of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF].

The foreign guests taking part were H.E. Behrooz Sadry, deputy head of the UNTAC; H.E. General John Sanderson, military commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cambodia; their excellencies the ambassadors and special envoys of the Big Five permanent members of the United Nations; and many other excellencies the ambassadors and diplomatic envoys of various countries designated to Cambodia.

H.E. Yasushi Akashi, in his capacity as the special representative of the UN secretary general and head of UNTAC, made a statement during the meeting, which our station would like to present as follows:

I would like to speak about a problem which has caused grave concern to the SNC, UNTAC, and all Cambodian citizens. This problem is about the withdrawal of foreign troops from Cambodia and their definite nonreturn. I will explain about the civilian matter later.

As your royal highness and all gentlemen know, in pursuant to the Paris agreement, UNTAC has personally supervised Cambodia's national defense institution and arranged a number of measures to verify that all foreign troops, advisers, and military personnel have already left Cambodia and will not be able to return absolutely. Checkpoints have been set up along the borders between Cambodia and the three neighboring countries. Mobile military units have also been put up to monitor and investigate whether there are foreign troops still remaining in Cambodia.

On this matter, I recall that the Vietnamese Government has issued a statement stressing that all Vietnamese troops left Cambodia during from 17 July 1982 and 26 September 1989.

This statement named the divisions, regiments, and battalions involved; the places from where those troops were withdrawn; the types of materiel, the dates, numbers of troops, and the roads they took to return to Vietnam.

That statement emphasized that Vietnam no longer had any troops, weapons, or materiel left on Cambodian soil, and that Vietnam has not sent troops, weapons, or materiel back to Cambodia.

The Vietnamese Government made this statement despite the fact that its stance has nothing to do with Article 6 in Annex Two of the Paris agreement.

I would like to express my thanks for this statement. We, however, do not take this to mean that everything is settled. The UNTAC still wants to investigate whether it is true that all foreign troops, advisers, and military personnel have already left Cambodia. It will make all the necessary investigations to fulfill its mission on this matter. This is why the UNTAC has proposed that any Cambodian faction, who has learned about the presence of the foreign troops in Cambodia, to inform and cooperate with us in investigating this matter. We will also investigate the matter ourselves whether we obtain evidence from any faction or not.

I would like to stress that if each faction keeps saying that there are foreign troops in Cambodia, but fails to give us information or evidence or does not give cooperate with us, we might consider such an allegation as totally meaningless.

On foreign civilians, they include workers and immigrants. Briefly speaking, the issue of the Cambodians of foreign origin should be discussed separately apart from problem of foreign troops.

Many countries across the world have faced the problems of immigrants and racial discrimination. Some countries, however, have effectively resolved such problems.

In Cambodia, the historical and geographical settings have complicated these problems. The UNTAC, a multinational body, understands these problems very well. However, it does not have the task or resources and means, but only the spirit to help resolve them. This task rests on the Cambodians themselves. There are, however, two points which can be clearly seen. The first is that these problems need a very long time to be settled. They cannot be resolved during the transitional period and the future Cambodian Government should find ways to settle them. The second is that there should be some compromise and understanding (?from) all circles, that is the state authorities, foreigners, and most importantly the Cambodian people.

I would like to make the following appeal:

I would like to propose the following to the officials of the four Cambodian factions who are in power:

Please try to do everything to create a good atmosphere in the zone under your control. Please do not do anything or carry out any activity which might cause confusion (?and) racial discrimination.

Some ministries might be able to do more than this, such as by conducting inspection thoroughly, meticulously, and correctly in line with border laws. Since this matter involves the territorial integrity of Cambodia, the SNC should negotiate with the neighboring countries. The UNTAC will also raise this matter for discussion at the SNC meeting.

I also know that the majority of the immigrants always respect the customs of the Cambodian people. This (?practice) is very clear to the foreigners who have come to do business and to work in Cambodia. However, (?in return), the foreigners have the right to ask the Cambodian officials to protect them under the existing laws.

Finally, to the Cambodian people, I would like to declare that the world has learned about your suffering in the past more than 20 years. The world has begun to help all of you.

Within the next few months and next year, all resources will come to Cambodia to restore and build your country and your livelihood will certainly be improved.

However, all the current undertakings need much time and patience. Nothing can be gained thinking only about race and their origins. You should remember, as the international community did, that Cambodia is one of the countries which signed the convention on all categories of racial discrimination and genocide and must respect all points as defined in the convention.

The international community and UNTAC will definitely condemn any person who incites any group to oppose foreigners for whatever reason.

I appeal to the SNC members to explain to all Cambodian people from whatever party they may be, that they should coexist peacefully with their neighbors and to tell them to resolutely oppose all activities that might spark a movement against foreign workers and immigrants.

I appeal to the Cambodian people to work peacefully to rebuild Cambodia, (?keeping in mind that) to defend Cambodia's independence and territorial integrity, it is imperative to build and turn the motherland into a stable, democratic, neutral, and prosperous country.

Soldiers Massacre 8 Ethnic Vietnamese

BK2207131292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, July 23 (AFP)—Eight ethnic Vietnamese, including a seven-day-old baby, who settled inside

Cambodia's borders have been massacred by soldiers belonging to an unknown Cambodian faction, the United Nations peacekeeping force reported Thursday.

Some 30 soldiers entered Phum Tuk Meas village in southeast Cambodia on Tuesday apparently shouting, "We are here to kill the Vietnamese enemy," said U.N. spokesman Eric Falt.

The seven-day-old baby was pulled from his mother's arms and fatally smashed against the floor, Falt said. The mother was shot at the entrance to the house and the father shot in the head at point-blank range as he was baking bread.

"All of this was execution style," Falt said.

At a second house, the soldiers eviscerated a 30-year-old man and killed his four nieces and nephews. They included a 16-year-old boy shot in the stomach, a 12-year-old girl in the chest and a nine-year-old boy in the head, Falt said.

A seven-year-old girl's head was split open, he said.

"Our investigation concluded this was a deliberate massacre," he said, but added the soldiers could have been Khmer Rouge guerrillas or Phnom Penh government forces.

Khmer Rouge Launch Attacks 13-14 Jul, 18 Jul

BK2407133592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] While the State of Cambodia [SOC] armed forces were earnestly implementing the Paris agreement, particularly the second phase when the armed forces of all factions must regroup for further supervision and reduction by the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the Khmer Rouge have not only refused to abide by the agreement, they have also grossly encroached on the SOC armed forces positions and caused havoc.

According to a report from the 4th Military Region's Military Coordination Committee with the United Nations, on 13 and 14 July, Khmer Rouge troops from the 980th Division, supported by shelling of all types of artillery, attacked and took temporary control of the position at Ta Siem. Various other localities in Svay Leu District of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province were also shelled, seriously injuring our forces and people.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge forces fired between 200 and 250 artillery shells at Boeng Mealea, O Andeng Chhma, Trapeang Thom, Tua A'yang, and at coordinates 95/15 in Sot Nikom District.

The UNTAC forces from Pakistan and Bangladesh in charge of the cantonment site of 101st Regiment together with (Nu Phalla), chairman of Sot Nikom District's People Committee, went to inspect the areas attacked by the Khmer Rouge. Major (Haris), commander of the cantonment site of our SOC's 101st Regiment, expressed regret over the sufferings of our people and armed forces and the fact that the Khmer Rouge have not implemented the Paris agreement which they also signed, saying this caused difficulties to the Cambodian peace process.

Mines Kill 1, Wound 4

BK2407130792 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1122 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 24—A government soldier was killed and four civilians wounded by Khmer Rouge's land mines on July 18 in the northwestern province of Siem Reap-Oddor Meanchey.

According to Military Coordination Committee with the United Nations, the incident took place on Road 6 when these unlucky people stepped on Khmer Rouge-laid mines.

On July 20, the committee said, a group from 60-70 Khmer Rouge launched attacks on government positions in the villages of Kbal Krapeu and Prasat, Angkor Thom District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

A day later, other groups of Khmer Rouge from Division 912 and 980 with heavy guns and seven ammunition-loaded trucks were ready to launch attacked on government soldiers in the west part of Bay Doh, Angkor Chey District, in an attempt to take control of a government position north of Svay Sar and the district town of Angkor Chum.

On July 22, Khmer Rouge sent 30 ox-carts of ammunition into Angkor Thom District, including four carts to Ta Trav Village for attacking the government's positions there.

Son Sann's 16 Jul Proposals Reiterated

BK1907102592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Jul 92

["Translation" of proposals by Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP], and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], "read by His Excellency Ieng Muli at the 16 July 1992 SNC Meeting"—dated 16 July; read by announcer]

[Text] I wish to make an urgent appeal to the four Cambodian parties and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to resume the works of the SNC [Supreme National Council] under the lofty chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk so as to correctly implement the Paris accord and the proposed Tokyo [22 June 1992] draft document without delay. I ask to be permitted to make the following proposals:

The withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia should be conducted under the supervision of the UNTAC.

Vietnamese citizens and other foreigners are not eligible to vote.

Cambodia's territorial integrity: This primary issue should be resolved prior to the second phase. It is vitally important to ask Vietnam to declare in writing that it has already withdrawn all its forces, including experts and advisers and ammunition, by indicating dates and routes of withdrawals and the number of forces and materiel withdrawn. Vietnam should also be asked to promise in writing that it will not return. To avoid misunderstanding, it is very important to clarify that:

1. Cambodians do not agree to allow the Vietnamese to vote in future general, free, and fair elections to be organized by the UNTAC for the Cambodian people in 1993.
2. The issue of Cambodia's territoral integrity within the boundaries prior to 1970 should be rectified and guaranteed before the 1993 elections.

We invite Vietnam to facilitate the settlement of all those problems with the view of establishing the foundation of good neighborliness.

On the existing state authorities, all have agreed that there is no other government except for the SNC and UNTAC.

In Western countries practicing liberal democracy, the administration still exists, but the government as well as political apparatus change according to the results of elections. In socialist and communist countries, not only the government, but also administrative officials belong to the communist parties. Thus, in Cambodia it should be understood that there is no government whatsoever; there are no political establishments; and there are no representatives of communist parties in ministries. In general, there should be no persons with direct influence on the organization of free elections in 1993.

Representatives of the four Cambodian parties within the SNC shall not have any real or honorary roles apart from being SNC members. Permanent and effective supervision of the UNTAC and SNC should not only focus on the five sectors, but also on all activities that influence the free and correct elections to be held at all levels from the capital city to districts, communes, and villages in 1993.

Police: All police forces should be dismantled regardless of their importance.

Reception of foreign personalities: The reception should be organized in the name of the SNC. However, the UNTAC should look after and provide necessary funds to the SNC for the reception and its process and to the SNC secretariat, whose operations currently are stalled.

Economic, financial, banking, foreign investment, social, and trade agreements; logging; mine exploitation; oil exploration and refinement, and so on: These operations, according to article 9 of the proposed draft document, should be jointly approved by the SNC and UNTAC.

The issuance of passports and visas: According to article 10 of the proposed draft document, the issuance of all kinds of passports, travel documents, identity cards, and so on with (?the prince's signature) and the UNTAC's approval should be processed by the SNC.

I wish to again urgently appeal to all the Cambodian parties to put a halt to any activities that hinder or hold up the process of achieving national compromise, necessary for a durable peace in Cambodia, such as coercion, harassment, attempted murder, or any actions that hamper the UN-sponsored peace process.

After the aforementioned proposals are accepted, I continue to consistently ask the Democratic Kampuchea party not to isolate itself, to allow the UNTAC forces to enter its regions freely, and to sincerely join the three other Cambodian parties in the peace process for the sake of Cambodia's and the Cambodian people's supreme interest.

[Dated] 16 July 1992
[Signed] Son Sann, KPNLF president and SNC member

Sihanouk Opens UNTAC Office in Kandal Province

BK2207062192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Report on inauguration of UNTAC office in Kandal Province—portions recorded]

[Text] UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] inaugurated its office in Kandal Province under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], and His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, head of UNTAC, on the morning of 21 July at Kandal provincial town.

Attending the ceremony as guests of honor were the excellencies members of the SNC, the secretaries general of the SNC, ministers from various ministries and departments, leaders of Kandal Province, representatives of various provinces and cities, officials and employees in the provincial town, and many representatives of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF]. Also present were their excellencies representatives of UNTAC civilian and military staffs, ambassadors, envoys, and representatives of various embassies and international organizations in Cambodia.

H.E. Akashi made a speech on that occasion, after the Buddhist monks chanted prayers to bless HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, H.E. Akashi, as well as national and international guests, and after the Internationale and SNC anthems were played. H.E. Akashi stressed that the presence of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk was a link between the SNC and UNTAC, and as the prince often said, he and UNTAC were just a bicycle with two wheels working jointly to bring peace to Cambodia.

H.E. Akashi stressed: This is the first office to be opened and more will be opened successively in provinces and cities throughout the country in line with the peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991.

H.E. Akashi added: The task of the UNTAC office is to publicize and impart general knowledge to the Cambodian people on UNTAC's role until the holding of a free and general election in Cambodia. He expressed his belief that all UNTAC offices will closely cooperate with the authorities and people in all localities as well as with all Cambodian factions so as to bring about mutual understanding regarding the reconstruction of Cambodia and respect for human rights.

On that solemn occasion, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk gave a speech in his own voice as follows:

[Begin Sihanouk recording] My respects to H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of his excellency the secretary general of the United Nations; my respects to all excellencies, madames, gentlemen, ladies, misses, friends, and all beloved compatriots.

First of all, I would like to express profound and sincere thanks to H.E. Yasushi Akashi and UNTAC for kindly inviting us, the chairman and members of our Cambodian SNC, to join with the fraternal UNTAC and the international community in this official inauguration of the managing office of the UN Transitional Authority in our excellent Kandal Province.

Now, I would like to take advantage of this auspicious occasion to express, on behalf of the Cambodian people and Cambodia's SNC and in my own name, profound salutations and gratitude to H.E. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general; H.E. Yasushi Akashi and the entire UNTAC; and all friends who represent the countries that are friends of Cambodia for assisting and supporting the Cambodian people and nation and for making all kinds of sacrifices for us, especially, the male and female members of the UNTAC, both civilian and military, who have readily made sacrifices by being separated from their families and their motherlands for a period of time and coming to Cambodia. What for? In order to safeguard our Cambodian people, who have just been able to return to peace and national unity after suffering for the past more than two decades. Moreover, it is in order to expand and consolidate this peace as well as to do anything possible so as to restore, salvage, and enhance the livelihood of our Cambodian people in all cities and provinces throughout Cambodia and to help our state, our country, and our nation to quickly rebuild its infrastructure, which was ruined by war and a bitter era.

Therefore, your assistance and the multiparty liberal democratic system you are helping us to successfully implement in the future are activities and contributions of great historic significance to stabilizing Cambodia in Southeast Asia. They are not just for the happiness of Cambodia and our Cambodian people and nation; they are also great and historic contributions to the stability and progress in Southeast Asia.

H.E. Yasushi Akashi, gentlemen, ladies, mesdames, misses, and most beloved compatriots of Samdech Euv [Prince Father]: The opening of the office in Kandal Province is for UNTAC to serve the Cambodian people and the correct cause of the Cambodian people and nation. This operation starts with our outstanding Kandal Province and will later be opened in all provinces. Later on, H.E. Yasushi Akashi will also open those offices in the provinces. This is a great benefit to our nation.

There is no need for me to remind you all of this benefit. This is because in the speech he just delivered, H.E. Yasushi Akashi already stressed UNTAC's duties and mission in serving our people, our Cambodia's liberal democracy, our people's rights and freedom, and the reconstruction of our nation, and in helping and guiding us toward the right path, to understand the laws to be drafted for next year's election through which we will have the national assembly and government to represent the entire Cambodia as an independent and sovereign country with territorial integrity. All of this has already been explained by His Excellency. Therefore, I will not repeat what H.E. Yasushi Akashi has already said. Speaking about it again would just amount to repeating and it would not be as clear as what His Excellency explained. Therefore, I will not speak about what His Excellency just stressed to the beloved compatriots and which was translated so well and clearly into Cambodian by the Russian interpreter.

I would like to take this auspicious occasion to express warm praise and best wishes to Mrs. Susan and her outstanding colleagues who have come to help our people and country within the framework of UNTAC in Kandal Province.

Excellencies, mesdames, ladies, gentlemen, and beloved compatriots: In conclusion, I would like to inform you that UNTAC has made immense efforts and sacrificed everything to assist us. Despite this, there is no peace at the moment. This is not UNTAC's fault; it is the fault of some of our Cambodians that peace is not yet everywhere.

I am thinking, with greatest affection, of my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in Kompong Thom Province, in a part of Siem Reap Province, in Preah Vihear Province, and in a few other places who are still suffering. Peace has not yet fully prevailed, despite the fact that we achieved a good result through the signing of the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991. Small battles have taken place in some areas in contravention of the Paris agreement. Moreover, some problems have not yet been resolved. I must ask H.E. Yasushi Akashi and UNTAC, and the international community, which wholeheartedly assist us, to forgive us for the fact that we, some Cambodians, cannot overcome obstacles to achieve 100 percent success in implementing the Paris agreement. I promise to strive with H.E. Yasushi Akashi and all our friends, UNTAC, their excellencies representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Australia, and so on to do better than this.

Speaking about the situation, I would like to solemnly stress that three parties, namely the State of Cambodia, FUNCINPEC, and the KPNLF, and myself will obey H.E. Yasushi and do whatever UNTAC tells us. We will agree with whatever UNTAC's interpretation of the Paris agreement or any documents is to serve the vital interest of the Cambodian people. We will do it, as we have already done, and will do so in the future. We absolutely and 100 percent support H.E. Yasushi Akashi and UNTAC. [end recording] [applause]

Also on that occasion, Mrs. Susan, head of the UNTAC office in Kandal Province, briefed HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and H.E. Akashi on the composition, role, and duties of the UNTAC office in Kandal Province whose aim is to contribute to seeking peace for our Cambodian motherland and people. She said that Kandal Province, like all other provinces and cities throughout Cambodia, is advancing toward a bright new era and the coming general elections in Cambodia will become a key that opens the doors to success in restoring and rebuilding Cambodia (?since there is) great potential for national development. Mrs. Susan expressed her optimistic view on the comprehensive development to be achieved in the future in Kandal Province and other provinces and cities throughout the country.

The ceremony ended in a joyous atmosphere permeated with a lofty spirit of national and international solidarity.

Hun Sen on Timing for ASEAN Membership

BK2307153592 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 23 Jul (SPK)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen disclosed that Cambodia would apply for membership to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] after the UN-supervised elections scheduled for May 1993.

ASEAN, which groups Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Brunei, has been holding its annual ministerial meeting in the Philippine city of Manila since Tuesday. The meeting is to be followed by discussions with the United States and Japan, its big trading partners.

In an exclusive interview with Cambodia's recently-published English weekly "CAMBODIA TIMES", the prime minister said there should be a sole bloc in Southeast Asia working for the economic development and well-being of the region, and not for an ideological clan that divides the actual ASEAN members from the Indochinese countries.

He expressed his belief that regional economic development would be a good starting point for Cambodia and that mutual assistance among these countries was very important because they have a lot in common.

Cambodia's real need, he added, is not ideology, but two specific objectives, ending the war and poverty.

He underlined the four priority economic areas, including the provision of drinking water, roads, electricity, and education, whose development has to be funded by foreign investment.

End to Suffering Caused by Khmer Rouge Urged

BK1907083992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "The Cambodian People Should Not Be Subjected To Continued Suffering"]

[Text] Two major, acute, and most pressing key issues of the Cambodian problem are peace and the country's rehabilitation. Peace was signed at the Paris international conference by 18 countries and the four Cambodian parties on 23 October 1991. As for the country's rehabilitation, it has been solved by the ministerial conference in Tokyo with 33 countries and 12 international organizations pledging nearly $880 million of rehabilitation aid on 22 June.

But why, to this day, has the conference not yet really materialized and the rehabilitation of the Angkor motherland, ruined by over decades of war, not yet taken shape? The 15th meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] was held on the morning of 16 July at the Khemarin palace under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, like previous SNC meetings, with the aim of solving the above two key issues. It is very regrettable, however, that at the 15th meeting, like at previous sessions, Khieu Samphan, representative of the Khmer Rouge, not only refused to cooperate in implementing the second phase of the cease-fire, but also ignorantly opposed the aid to rehabilitate Cambodia.

Analysts have noted that the Khmer Rouge are not at the stage of implementing the peace agreement, which they signed in Paris, but have instead put themselves in a negotiating stage. This is why the Khmer Rouge have ignored the appeal by the Cambodian people and the international community to all Cambodian parties to sincerely implement the peace agreement. The Khmer Rouge side persistently raises unending pretexts with the hope that through this they can drag the international community into their trap of attempting to prolong the situation as much as possible and move toward destroying the UN peace plan.

The Khmer Rouge clearly realize that only by acting this way can they have some chance of returning to power; if they take a chance and take part in free and proper elections, they would not have a chance to come to power. Furthermore, the Khmer Rouge clearly know that among the four

Cambodian parties, only the State of Cambodia side resolutely opposes them and has the capability to resist the Khmer Rouge's power-grabbing strategy.

This is why over the past eight months, despite knowing that the Paris agreement talks about maintaining the existing administration, Khieu Samphan continues to be thick-skinned and again and again demands the dissolution of the State of Cambodia's Government in exchange for his troops' demobilization. However, one point which the Khmer Rouge did not pay attention to, or did not pay enough attention to, is that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], with over 10,000 military and civilian staff in Cambodia, will not let itself be turned around at will by the Khmer Rouge. Furthermore, the international community has spent thousands of millions of dollars to implement this agreement and cannot let this major plan in the history of the UN fail.

As for the country's rehabilitation, even though the benefit will be for the Cambodian people, the Khmer Rouge do not care. Everyone knows that only destruction exists in the Khmer Rouge's mind—creation, and constructive ideas, do not. During the three years, eight months, and 20 days of their rule, the Polpotists carried out complete destruction; cities became graveyards. More seriously, over the past more than 13 years, those things that the efforts of the people have tried to restore have been criminally burned down, mined, and destroyed by the Polpotists.

This is why when the international community—which is sympathetic and wants to assist the Cambodian people—held a conference in Tokyo, Pol Pot did not want to attend. However, afraid of being further isolated, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen reluctantly attended the meeting. The Khmer Rouge have constantly opposed the country's rehabilitation since the meeting.

Lately, Khieu Samphan grossly opposed providing aid in the form of salaries to teachers, health personnel, workers involved in electric and water services, and so on. To this excessive and extremist attitude, UNTAC Chief Akashi said it is not at all appropriate to oppose or refuse this help and assistance; any party doing this with the hope of scoring political gain should carefully weigh the consequences resulting from such a short-sighted analysis. Furthermore, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as SNC chairman, expressed his agreement with Akashi's proposal on providing aid for rehabilitating and rebuilding Cambodia.

The Cambodian people fully support and vigorously welcome the astute thinking of Samdech Euv ["Prince father"] and appeal to the entire international community not to let the Cambodian people suffer from the Khmer Rouge's violations; the Cambodian people should not be left in hardship because of the refusal of a party without goodwill.

Referendum To Check Vietnamese Presence Proposed

BK2007031492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary: "If One Does Not Dare To Conduct a Referendum on the Presence of the Vietnamese in Cambodia, Do Not Hastily Say That There Are No Vietnamese in Cambodia"]

[Text] The Cambodian national resistance forces and the entire Cambodin people know well and see clearly that despite the fact that the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement has been signed and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has been deployed in Cambodia, the Vietnamese are still present in Cambodia.

Even up to the present, Vietnam has not withdrawn its aggressor troops from Cambodia. It has only turned the Vietnamese troops into puppet soldiers and civilians.

These Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] aggressor forces are now working in the ranks of the puppet administration from the top to the bottom levels, in the puppet army units, and in stores, big and small repair shops, and various other business places. All of them are members of the Yuon aggressor.

The Cambodian national resistance forces and people, who are victims of the nearly 14-year Vietnamese war of aggression, can differentiate who are the Yuon and who are Cambodians. Particularly, they know well who are the Vietnamese settlers and who are the Yuon aggressor forces under whatever cloak they might hide.

Those persons or individuals who said there are no Yuon in Cambodia must have been blinded not knowing who are the Yuon and who are the Cambodians. But if they are blind or do not know who are Yuon and who are Cambodians, then they should not be so bold as to clamor about there being no Vietnamese presence. If they continue to shamelessly declare that there are no Vietnamese, then they should conduct a referendum in Phnom Penh on this matter.

As a matter of fact, there is more than enough evidence to prove that there are Yuon aggressor forces in Cambodia and even in Phnom Penh. Evidence of a continued Vietnamese presence include the complaints and protests that the people lodged with UNTAC in various areas, daily comments on a Vietnamese presence in Phnom Penh by members of the public in the countryside and in Phnom Penh, reports at the congress of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, and the recent comments by hundreds of people at the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] office in Phnom Penh.

What evidence are they waiting for? Why have they continued to claim that there are no Vietnamese? They have kept clamoring that there are no Vietnamese only because they are colluding with the Yuon aggressors.

SK2407071492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0653 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—North Korean Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon paid a courtesy call on President No Tae-u Friday morning and then they had lunch together at the presidential office.

No greeted and shook hands with Kim when the North Korean technocrat paid a courtesy call on him at 11:30.

When No asked Kim whether he felt tired because of his tight schedule, Kim thanked the president for the hospitality shown to him during his stay.

"You must be popular with South Korea's journalists because they gave you warm coverage and were cooperative," No said.

No asked the North Korean official to extend his greetings to North Korean President Kim Il-song on his 80th birthday on April 15.

"As a matter of fact, I am sorry South and North Korea compete with each other occasionally. But I am pleased your activities here are cooperative," No said, expressing confidence in improvements in inter-Korean relations in the days ahead.

Kim put a large envelope on the table beside him after he said hello to President No, arousing speculation he had a personal message from the North Korean leader despite repeated denials by the president's staff.

Three South Korean officials—Deputy premier and Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu, director of the Agency for National Security Planning Yi Sang-yon and senior presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security affairs Kim Chong-hwi—sat in on the meeting, as did Yi Tae-song, a trade counselor in China, and one other North Korean official.

believes North Korea must accept inter-Korean nuclear inspection.

"But if Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu invited Kim to talk about economic cooperation, then he should discuss it as promised, and not send him back without any results because of the nuclear problem," a DP official said Friday.

"If the economic cooperation talks do not produce results, we may end up giving more power to the North Korean hardliners and weaken the voice of the reformists," he warned.

Suspicion of North Korea's nuclear intentions grew when, after seven meetings, the Joint Nuclear Control Commission, established in march to set up an inspection regime, ground to a standstill.

Experts and scholars are asking whether the nuclear issue, serious as it may be, has to be linked with economic relations.

Their points are that mutual inspection is unrealistic, that it will not solve all problems of distrust, and that it goes against the national interest.

"The more than 40 years of South-North Korean military confrontation and competition, and the mutual distrust unseen anywhere else in the world make inter-Korean nuclear inspection just an ideal," says Yi Ho-chae, a political science professor at Korea University. "The reality is far, far apart from such ideal expectations."

Nuclear development has inherent ambivalence between whether it is for peaceful or military purposes, he says.

The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty is "very incomplete" and countries like Japan with the biggest latent nuclear capability, North Korea and many other nations can build atomic armaments if they set their mind to it, he says.

Bank Chief Considers Ban on Foreign Currencies

BK2407073292 Phnom Penh KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 23 Jun 92 p 3

[Text] Our riel currency has been fluctuating every year, thus seriously destabilizing prices in the markets. In order to strengthen the value of our riel, during a consultative meeting held on 9 June at the office of the General Department of Tourism, Mr. Cha Rieng, chairman of the Cambodian People's Bank talked about the need to control the currency brought in by foreign investors. He revealed that all foreign currencies will be banned from circulation in the markets as of July 1992. The state has taken steps toward enforcing the ban and is going to issue an order and instruction to all economic agents so that they will carry out this job with high efficiency. Moreover, the National Bank will set up a network of money exchange booths throughout the State of Cambodia.

Controversy Over Riel Banknotes Continues

Bank Assures Citizens of Value

BK2307121992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 22 Jul 92

["Statement of the National Bank of Cambodia" on July 22—read by announcer]

[Text] Millions of people died and the socio-economic infrastructure and the achievements of the Cambodians were totally ruined under the barbaric rule of the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1978.

The people who survived had to live like slaves under the brutal masters. There were no cities or markets in the country. Money was abolished and all possessions were robbed by the criminals. The Khmer Rouge turned the whole of Cambodia into a new kind of country in total contrast to the progress of mankind.

After this blood-thirsty regime was toppled, the Cambodian people began to restructure a new society to enable them to restore and rebuild whatever they had lost.

We initially used the barter system in markets and human relations in terms of productivity and livelihood. This system was used during an impasse caused by a lack of currency as a means of payment.

In 1980, the state circulated the riel currency. Currency is the ordinary form of payment used in all countries, except for the Pol Pot regime.

With the riel, trade was conducted through a market mechanism leading to the production and distribution of goods.

The relationship between money and goods became a part of socio-economic life and lent itself to productivity and human relations in daily life.

Although it lacked some degree of price stability, the riel has become the most important means of payment and has become an appropriate representation of property for every Cambodian.

The Khmer Rouge, which have long been subverting the riel to undermine the socio-economic stability and plunge the market into chaos, are now openly demanding its abolition. The currency, meanwhile, is circulating in markets as the legal tender of the Cambodian people.

The current action of the Khmer Rouge clearly shows they are trying to confiscate the people's legal property as they did when they were in power.

Definitely, one cannot please the Khmer Rouge at the expense of the interests of the Cambodian people. Neither can one return to the barter system by abolishing the currency.

In the past several weeks, economic sabotage aimed at destroying the people's legal property represented by the riel has created great confusion in the markets.

It started with the refusal to accept the 10, 20, and 50-riel banknotes, the depreciation of their face value if accepted, or the raising of the price of goods. There is also chaos affecting the transaction of 500-riel banknotes, which were hoarded in a number of places.

The National Bank wishes to inform the public that the state has never announced the withdrawal of any banknote that has been put into circulation since 1980. There also has been no law directing the hoarding of riel banknotes of all denominations, a practice that will also affect the interests of those who possess the banknotes.

All banknotes currently in curculation still retain their face value.

Offenders will be punished according to law.

Moreover, the National Bank wishes to inform the public that ceasing to use riel banknotes on one's own free will is tantamount to destroying the personal and legal property of citizens, an action that accords with the scheme of the Khmer Rouge and dishonest persons.

Every citizen who has the banknotes of all denominations must continue to use them. Only by so doing, can he protect his own interests as he has shed much sweat and blood to earn this money.

For now and the future, no organization has the right to issue any new currency to replace the present one. If the government to be formed after the election issues a new currency, it should arrange for the exchange of the old currency with the new one according to its face value. This is because the old currency must not be completely abolished, as what the Pol Pot clique when it was in power from 1975 to 1978.

The National Bank appeals to compatriots to protect their own interests by continuing to use all riel banknotes they currently possess.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 July 1992.

SNC Asked To Issue New Banknotes

BK2407032392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] The movement of the Cambodian people refusing to accept the Vietnamese puppets' riel banknotes has intensified over the past two weeks. In Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kompong Cham, and other provinces, the people have shredded the notes because they are no longer accepted as legal tender.

The Vietnamese puppets in Phnom Penh painstakingly amassed and stuffed the 10, 20, and 50 riel banknotes into bags and used them as salaries for soldiers and officials they have forced to serve them in provinces, specifically in Kompong Thom Province. Those soldiers and officials asked: What is the usefulness of those sheets of cigarette paper since they are no longer accepted? They are certainly for swindling the people. The 10, 20, and 50 riel banknotes have been out of use for a long time now, and people in villages have been using the barter system. The situation makes ordinary people who live from hand to mouth and Cambodian soldiers and low-ranking officials with irregularly paid salaries become more and more miserable.

Also, the puppets' 100 riel banknote has been out of use for more than a year. The 500 riel note is still accepted in some places. However, we wish to ask: How many people have 500 riel banknotes for their daily transactions? And how long will the 500 riel note be accepted since the puppet banknotes have become cigarette paper?

In sum, the Vietnamese aggressors have printed the riel banknotes to serve their policy of invading and annexing Cambodia, sabotaging Cambodia's economy, and plundering the Cambodian people with the intent of abolishing the Cambodian nation.

The Cambodian people request that the Supreme National Council [SNC] issue its own riel banknotes for their transactions. The people need to use the currency notes issued by the SNC but no longer those by the Vietnamese puppets.

Demonstration in Battambang 23 Jul

BK2407033492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Thousands of people in the Battambang provincial town and its environs held a grand demonstration by marching toward the puppet treasury in the city on 23 Jul. The demonstrators, male and female alike, angrily complained that the 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 riel bank notes were no longer accepted as legal tender. They asked why those printed currency notes could not be used? The people received some of those notes from soldiers and officials in Battambang, who bought their paddy, rice, and farming produce.

Those currency notes are no longer accepted. So we demand that the paddy, rice, and farming produces be returned to us. Why should they print the bank notes to swindle the people? Why should they use the bank notes to cheat in buying goods from the people? Does this not mean cutting the throat of and killing the people? We cannot accept and this matter has to be cleared up.

The demonstration staged by thousands of residents of the Battambang town caused the situation in the town and environs to become chaotic. And this is the second or third demonstration staged by the people to complain about the no-longer-accepted riel bank notes.

Hun Sen Opens Bridge Worksite in Prey Veng

BK2407070592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] On 22 July, Mr. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], accompanied by Mr. Sin Song, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and minister of National Security, and wife; Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers, and wife; and many other officials and personages went to attend a ceremony to open the worksite for building a bridge at the Kompong Popil ferry and visit people and monks in Peareang District of Prey Veng Province.

The bridge at Kompong Popil ferry will be built across Tonle Toch river linking routes between Kompong Chamlang Commune in Khsach Kandal District and Kompong Popil Commune in Peareang District, in response to the need of the people in the two provinces of Kandal and Prey Veng.

Speaking to the authorities, monks, and people during the opening ceremony, Mr. Hun Sen stressed that this Kompong Popil bridge was a new achievement of the CPP and the SOC Government which would be completed at the beginning of 1993 in line with the CPP's program to continue restoring and rebuilding the motherland.

Mr. Hun Sen thanked and commended a number of generous persons and private companies in Phnom Penh for distributing funds for building this new bridge in line with the CPP's appeal.

Concerning the situation in the country, Mr. Hun Sen said that the CPP had pursued national reconciliation in order to end the war and the people's suffering. He stressed that we all were the victims of the Pol Pot regime and that the CPP was the only party that led the struggle to liberate the country and people. Our heroic struggle in the past more than 13 years had enabled us to reunite here with a happy and delightful life.

Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen launched an appeal calling on the authorities, people, and monks to vote for His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the head of state to enable him to lead us to achieve national reconciliation and rebuild our motherland.

Laos

Kaysone Receives Message From Thai Crown Prince

BK2107144792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Jul 92

["Recent" message of thanks from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of the Kingdom of Thailand to Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], on the crown prince's official visit to the LPDR from 13 to 19 June]

[Text] Your Excellency the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]: I would like to extend my wholehearted thanks to you as well as to the government and people of the LPDR for giving me a warm welcome full of goodwill during my official visit as the representative of their majesties the king and queen of the Kingdom of Thailand from 13 to 19 June 1992.

In his message, his royal highness the crown prince of the Kingdom of Thailand, went on to say:

During my visit to the LPDR, in addition to meeting and holding consultations with you and other high-level personalities, the Lao Government also arranged for me to visit several important places throughout the country from the north to the south. During my stay in Laos, I was constantly accompanied by both His Excellency Phoun Sipaseut and His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulit, who gave me extremely good care. The visit gives me a good opportunity to learn the way of life and living conditions as well as the customs, traditions, and culture of the Lao people, which are very close and similar to those in Thailand. All this is proof that the relations between our two countries have existed for a long time. The experience during the visit gave me an opportunity to learn about and to profoundly understand your country and people.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey the best wishes of their majesties the king and queen to your excellency the president of the LPDR as well as to Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan and the government and all Lao people. I firmly believe that my visit to the LPDR as the representative of their majesties the king and queen will contribute to further strengthening the relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the LPDR—two brotherly countries.

I would like to extend my best wishes to you for your good health.

May your excellency attain prosperity, longevity, and good mental and physical health.

May the LPDR attain happiness, security, and everlasting stability.

Army Leader Sends Message to PRC Counterpart

BK2307101592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Comrade Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen.] Osakan Thammathewa, chief of the Lao People's Army [LPA] General Political Department, sent a thank-you message on 20 July to Gen. Yang Baibing, director of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA] General Political Department in Beijing after the General Political Department of the LPA completed a friendship visit to the PRC at the invitation of the General Political Department of the PLA. The message reads:

Respected Comrade General, the delegation of the LPA General Political Department assessed its PRC visit, at the invitation of the Chinese PLA, as highly successful. Throughout the seven-day visit, as we learned and carried out activities, we were accorded a warm welcome in an atmosphere of solidarity, intimacy, sincerity, friendship, and hospitality from comrades government and party leaders, the PLA, great fraternal Chinese people, and close and reliable friends of the LPA and Lao people.

The Chinese comrades also provided us with all conveniences, and gave us a variety of valuable lessons. This has promoted the good understanding between the two general political departments of the Lao and Chinese Armies, thus improving and enhancing the long existing friendship between the two countries and armies every passing day.

On behalf of the delegation of the General Political Department and military officers and privates of the LPA, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to Comrade General, and through you to the State and Party leaders, the Chinese PLA General Political Department, and all the local administrations and government agencies, for giving us a warm welcome, conveniences, and valuable experiences.

We wish you Comrade General good health, new successes in your duties, and happiness for your family. I wish the friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two armies and countries to further development and expansion. With best regards.

Indonesian President's Envoy Arrives for Visit

BK2407054692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] His Excellency Suparjo Rustam, coordinating minister for public welfare and special envoy of President Suharto of the Republic Indonesia, and his wife arrived in Vientiane for a visit yesterday afternoon. The purpose of his visit is to hand over President Suharto's letter of invitation to His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], to attend the 10th Nonaligned Movement meeting. This meeting is scheduled to be held in Jakarta, capital of the Republic of Indonesia, in early September 1992.

His Excellency Suparjo Rustam was welcomed upon his arrival at Wattai Airport by His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavat, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, and Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy foreign minister, along with a number of cadres. Kasman Pahala Siahaan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Indonesia to Laos, was also on hand to welcome His Excellency Suparjo Rustam at the airport.

On the evening of the same day, His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavat, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, held a meeting with His Excellency Suparjo Rustam, coordinating minister for public welfare of Indonesia. In the meeting, the two ministers informed each other of the situation in their respective countries. They also discussed international issues of common interest.

Signing of Bali Treaty in Manila Welcomed

BK2307125192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 23 Jul 92

[PASASON editorial: "For Friendship and Cooperation in Southeast Asian Region"; date not given]

[Text] Respected listeners, our Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] signed the Southeast Asia Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, also known as the Bali Treaty, on 22 July. This treaty is intended to achieve peace, friendship, and cooperation in various fields in the Southeast Asian region in conformity with the content, spirit, and principles of the UN charters, the 10-point principles as approved by the Afro-Asian conference in Bandung on 25 April 1955, the statement issued by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Bangkok on 8 August 1967, and the statement signed in Kuala Lumpur on 27 November 1971.

Since 1976, various Southeast Asian nations have been convinced to become signatory states to the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation so as to jointly develop their countries. The treaty's purpose is to bring about durable peace, lasting friendship, and cooperation among the various nations by maintaining strength, solidarity, and close ties. But, to maintain mutual ties, it is necessary for the signatory states to comply with the following principles: respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity; respect for rights of each state to uphold its survival without interference, sabotage, or coercion; noninterference in each other's internal affairs; settlement of disagreement or disputes through political means; and the refusal to resort to threats or to use force against each other. The signatory states must be firmly determined and convinced to prevent an occurrence of disputes. Another significant point of this treaty is that signatory states must refrain from using force to settle any dispute and must comply with the principle of peaceful coexistence. In case of a dispute which involves them directly, in particular one that might affect peace and concord in the region, they must practice restraint and refrain from using force to impose threats. Instead, they must solve the problem together.

In settling regional disputes, the various signatory states shall set up a supreme council to serve as their (?standing) organization. The council shall be composed of representatives at the ministerial level from each signatory state. Its duty is to seek information on the causes of a dispute or an incident that affects peace and concord. If the problem cannot be solved through direct talks, the supreme council shall acknowledge the dispute or the situation and then give all parties concerned suggestions on how to settle the problem, such as consultation, compromise, and investigation. These can result in achieving harmony. The supreme council itself can volunteer to mediate with each side involved in the dispute, name itself a committee in charge of investigating the case and mediate between the disputing parties to help them reach a reconciliation. If necessary, the supreme council shall suggest the use of appropriate measures to prevent the worsening of the dispute or situation. All these are for friendship and cooperation in the Southeast Asian region.

Transport Ministry Discusses Use of Foreign Funds

BK2207095492 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Vientiane, July 22 (KPL)—The Ministry of Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction (MCTPC) yesterday held here a meeting to elaborate the situation and purpose of using foreign funds in the construction of Road 13-North and of other communication infrastructures in the country carried out by the ministry.

Representatives from many interested ministries and services of the government were invited to the meeting presided over by Communication, Transport, Post, and Construction Minister Bouathong.

Following the opening speech by Minister Bouathong, his deputy, Mr. Himmakon Manotham, presented to the audience a report on the use of foreign funds in his capacity as head of auditors of the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction.

Deputy Minister Himmakon Manotham, referring to duly certified data documents, gave facts as answers to ten questions on the use of foreign funds as well as local funds that the Lao Government have allocated to the MCTPC for the infrastructural construction.

The meeting then discussed the given data and were satisfied with the explanations.

Resolution on Electricity Rate Issued

BK2307071892 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Vientiane, July 22 (KPL)—As from July 1st, 1992, the electricity rate will be adjusted, disclosed Mr. Soulivong Dalavong, minister of industry and handicraft, to the representatives of ministries, offices and organisations at the club of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao PRP [Lao People's Revolutuionary Party] Central Committee yesterday.

The new rates for household consumption are set as follows:

8 kip/kw/h for the power consumption between 0-100/kw/h, 15 kip /kw/h for 101-200/kw/h, and 25 kip/kw/h for more than 201 /kw/h.

The minimum charge for electricity service is 150 kip a month. The electricity rate for residences of diplomats and of officials of international organisations is 60 kip /kw/h.

The minimum charge for this category of users is 1,500 kip a month.

As for business, trading and services sectors, the rate amounts to 47 kip/kw/h. The minimum charge for electricity service is 700 kip a month.

For pumping stations for irrigation, the rate is seven kip per kw/h and the minimum charge is 1,000 kip a month.

The reason behind the adjustment was said to make electricity a real income source to and to shift burden of the national budget, to reduce the state subsidies and to boost production.

Mr. Soulivong Dalavong also showed some statistical figures.

The consumers of power between 0-100 kw a month account for 53.9 per cent of the whole power consumers but consume only 13.7 per cent of the total power consumption among household consumers.

Thir monthly maximum additional payment amounts to 18 kip, or 43 kip on average

The consumers of power from 201 kw/h account for 22.98 per cent of the entire consumer population, but consume more than 66.5 per cent of the total power consumption among common consumers. Their maximum payment is on average 3,278 kip a month.

The adjustment of the rate is in line with the resoution 09/PM [Prime Minister] dated on July 4, 1992.

Philippines

Ramos Seeks To Reorganize Government Departments

HK2407051392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos is asking Congress for the abolition of some government departments, the merging of others, and the downgrading of others to bureau status.

Leonara Vasquez de Jesus, presidential management staff chief, said that the president wanted to streamline the executive departments to cut expenditure and improve the government's services to the public. She said the planned reorganization still needs the approval of Congress.

Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, however, said these reorganized departments and agencies will still retain their original budgets. The only changes that will occur will be the streamlining of these agencies' duties.

Disappointment at Failure To Secure ASEAN Post

HK2407052192 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Jul 92 p 12

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] To say that the Philippines is disappointed over its failure to secure the post of ASEAN secretary general for its candidate would be a great understatement.

The Philippines had put forward Vicente Valdepena for the position, but Malaysia's Ajit Singh got the nod after strenuous horse-trading in the corridors.

The expanded mandate for the ASEAN secretariat to oversee, initiate and coordinate activities for the regional grouping makes the position of secretary general a very powerful one, according him ministerial status, on the same level as the foreign ministers. Moreover, the new rules call for a tenure of five years.

"We played by the rules, but the others didn't," a ranking Philippine official claimed. "We understood that it would be an open selection process, but the Malaysians had apparently secured commitments of support from the other ASEAN members."

"Our candidate has demonstrably better qualifications than Mr. Singh, who is a mere director general and thus subject to control by Kuala Lumpur," the official said.

An ASEAN diplomat said, however, that Mr. Valdepena's loss was "the price the Philippines had to pay for the ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea."

A senior foreign affairs official said the Philippines will "call for a review of the selection process for the post of ASEAN secretary-general at the next Summit (in Bangkok). If that's the way they want to play, it would be better to revert to the rotation process."

Meanwhile, incoming Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo is slated to trek to Japan upon his assumption to office. He was invited by the Japanese delegation to the ASEAN post-ministerial conference.

Communist Chief Urges Political Prisoners Release

HK2407100592 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Jul 92 p 3

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Utrecht, Netherlands—Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has welcomed the peace moves of President Ramos but called for the release of all political prisoners as a condition for the bilateral talks with the government.

In an exclusive interview here last Wednesday, Sison also said that as far as he knew, there was nothing clear and definite about the plan to have a government delegation meet with representatives of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in the Netherlands.

The delegation will reportedly be composed of Congressmen Jose Yap and Jose de Venecia as well as Bernabe Buscayno, alias Ka [Comrade] Dante and former leader of the New People's Army (NPA).

During the one-hour interview arranged by his liaison officer Frank Pascual in his office, Sison said that if President Ramos was really interested in the proposed bilateral talks, he should first release all political prisoners like what President Aquino did when she assumed the presidency in 1986.

"So far the civil, military officials of the Ramos government have been negotiating in the newspapers," Sison said:

The communist leader described the government's peace moves as amounting to a psy-war scheme to achieve the following objectives:

1. To whip up an atmosphere for divisive approaches of the Ramos regime to various revolutionary personnel lower than the top-level NDP representatives abroad who are duly authorized to consider the offer of preliminary talks leading to actual peace negotiations.

2. To provide the pretext for preventing the release of the political prisoners who have the right to bail or the unjust charges against them are dropped or made bailable.

"If General Ramos wishes to show goodwill, he can immediately release all the political prisoners (including peasant leader and former Concom [Constitutional Commission] member Jaime Tadeo) before dispatching any delegation to the NDF representatives abroad," Sison said.

"He should be able to do what Mrs Aquino did upon her assumption of the presidential office in 1986. So far, only a few political prisoners have been released on bail due to the efforts of their lawyers."

Sison pointed out that "the issue of amnesty should not be used to obscure the unjust, brutal, and corrupt character of the ruling system and the just cause of the people in waging armed revolution for national liberation and democracy.

Sison claimed that the NPA has "repeatedly released captive officers and men...and amnestied civil and military officials of the reactionary government whenever the people and the revolutionary forces gain control over any territory."

The communist leader, however, welcomed Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez as one of the government negotiators in the proposed peace talks.

Rodriguez was one of the negotiators who secured the release on Aug. 14, 1987, of four Army officers and a Narcom [Narcotics Command] agent abducted by the group of Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka Roger, on June 1, 1987; and also the release of five Army engineering teams on Dec. 25, 1987 following their abduction on Sept. 28, 1987.

Sison said he was banking on the inclusion of lawyer Romeo Capulong in the negotiations panel should the peace talks push through in the Netherlands.

Thailand

Supreme Command on U.S. Exercise Cancellation

BK2307123192 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 22 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, director of the Supreme Command Information Office, said the United States has called off this year's LOGEX exercise scheduled for 23 July. He said the commanders of the armed forces units have been informed of the cancellation. He said the U.S did not give any reason for not sending any troops for the joint military exercise this year. Anyway, this abrupt cancellation by the U.S. will pose no problem for Thailand as the annual exercise involves only a small number of soldiers.

Lt. Gen. Anuson noted that the United States, as leader of free democratic countries, will suspend military assistance or contact with Thailand every time Thailand does not have a popularly elected government. U.S. assistance will resume, however, once Thailand has an elected government. He said that earlier the United States had called off the Cobra Gold joint military exercise with Thailand.

Exercise Begins 23 Jul

BK2307145592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] The annual LOGEX joint military exercise of the various branches of the armed services and communications-related state enterprises was declared officially opened this morning. Admiral Han Sakunphanit, deputy supreme commander, presided over the opening ceremony, which took place at the Navy Aviation Squadron, Utaphao Airbase, Sattahip District, Chonburi Province. The LOGEX 92 exercise, scheduled 23-30 July, is a joint exercise on combined logistics operations of the armed services and concerned state enterprises. The training covers command post operations, planning, and coordination on logistics supplies for troops in time of war.

According to a previous plan, the United States agreed to participate in the joint exercise, but cancelled later on by asking for a postponement of the exercise. Commenting on this, the deputy supreme commander said the United States cancelled the exercise perhaps because both Thailand and the United States are holding elections. This is normal and should have nothing to do with military relations, he said.

Asa Discusses Cambodian Issue With Qian Qichen

BK2307152192 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 23 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, reported that Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Manila on 21 July. The two sides agreed that in resolving the Cambodian issue, all parties concerned should not exert undue pressure on the Khmer Rouge. Instead, they should try their best to persuade the Khmer Rouge to participate in the peace process. There would not be any use in blindly isolating the Khmer Rouge.

Sakthip also said that while attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministerial Conference, Asa and Qian Qichen also discussed the upcoming SNC meeting to be held in Phnom Penh soon. They realized that the issue should be resolved among the Khmer factions without the interference of foreign countries. The Thai side said China should vigorously support Prince Sihanouk's role in the SNC. The Chinese side agreed to consider this.

Meanwhile, Asa has also invited Qian Qichen to visit Thailand during the Asia-Pacific Economic Coperation meeting in Thailand in late September.

Three Industries Oppose ASEAN Free Trade Area

BK2407025392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 92 pp B1, B12

[Text] Competition worries have prompted three industries to express opposition to the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA]. The pharmaceutical, glass and electronic and electrical appliance industries informed the Federation of Thai Industries [FTI] that they are not ready for AFTA.

The three are among the 15 groups which will see tariff rates come down to 30 per cent at the beginning of next year. An FTI working group, chaired by Chawarat Chanwirakun, said the three industries face economy-of-scale problems since other ASEAN competitors have higher capacities.

For example, Malaysia is said to have a larger production capacity in electronic and electrical appliances and to offer lower tariffs on raw material imports compared to its counterparts in Thailand.

The main stumbling block is that the tariffs on raw material imports for these products are more than 30 per cent, higher than in other ASEAN countries.

Chawarat said the tax rates have to be brought down by the end of the year if Thai products are to become more competitive.

Representatives from the Finance Ministry and the Customs Department also attended the FTI working group meeting yesterday to learn of the private sector's assessment of AFTA.

They were asked to speed up consideration on lower raw material import duties.

The paper and pulp industry is not expected to face many problems with their tariff at a low five per cent.

Some industries, according to Chawarat, may already be competitive and can take advantage of AFTA which will enlarge the market from 58 million people to 300 million.

But none of these industries have come forward and the FTI may write to them to seek their views. The FTI will also produce a booklet on AFTA since many members are still in the dark about the programme.

The FTI has hired the Thailand Development Research Institute to conduct studies on the long-term impact on Thai industries of AFTA and to make recommendations.

Chawarat cited for example the need for the government to reduce royalties on natural gas to make energy more competitive and help industries lower production costs.

For products such as palm oil which will face strong competition from imports, the industry will need to diversify into other products.

The working group was told of the ASEAN Committee on Commerce and Industry's support for AFTA in principle, although the private sector in many ASEAN cousntries said they are not yet ready for the programme.

The FTI plans to organize a seminar on AFTA and if it is held during the tenure of this government, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, introduced the initiative will be asked to give the keynote address.

Appeal To Press ASEAN on Human Rights Viewed

BK2407100592 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai
22 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] AsiaWatch, a human rights organization in the United States, wants the United States to pressure ASEAN members to curb human rights abuses in the region. On 17 July, AsiaWatch sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker asking him to use the opportunity during the ASEAN post-ministerial conference in Manila, the Philippines, scheduled for one week from 21 July, to press ASEAN countries on the issue. The letter details human rights abuses in Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, and Indonesia. Made public in Bangkok on 21 July, the letter asked Baker to press for a full accounting of the military crackdown on pro-democracy protestors in Bangkok from 17-20 May which resulted in hundreds being killed and missing.

According to an AP report, two government committees are investigating the incident. Pro-democracy activists, however, called for the immediate removal of military commanders because they believe that no truth could be obtained if the military commanders responsible for the massacre are not removed. The Thai Government has so far resisted calls to remove the military commanders.

AsiaWatch added that the Thai military's business dealings with Cambodia's murderous Khmer Rouge in gem mining and logging had enabled the guerrillas to continue fighting, and thus stalling UN peacekeeping operations.

The Khmer Rouge have resisted disarmament, a major phase in the peace plan agreed on by the four Cambodian factions including the Khmer Rouge itself, to end the prolonged 13-year civil war. The AsiaWatch letter says: "Thailand could pressure the Khmer Rouge by cutting its financial lifeline if only Thailand had a political will to do so."

On Burma, AsiaWatch expressed disgust over human rights violations against democracy as well as the muslim ethnic minority now taking refuge in Bangladesh. It called on Baker to act on behalf of the United States, which, together with Australia, the European Community, and others, to press ASEAN to stop supplying weapons to Burma.

ASEAN Stand on Khmer Rouge Sanctions Viewed

BK2307060792 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Jul 92 p A6

[Editorial: "UN Sanctions Only Way To Influence Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday adopted a resolution on cutting off development aid to the Khmer Rouge guerrillas immediately if they continue to defy the UN-brokered peace accords in Cambodia. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous 15-0 vote. Nearly all the Security Council members, including France, China, Russia, Japan and the United States, spoke in favour of the resolution. Japan, which is largely bank-rolling the peacekeeping operation, expressed concern over the "uncooperative, unrealistic" attitude of "the one party in question". The resolution, however, never mentions the Khmer Rouge by name, in apparent deference to China, although several of its provisions are clearly aimed at them.

The radical Maoist guerrillas are still blocking Cambodia's peace process by refusing to go along with the UN programme launched on June 12 to demobilize and disarm 70 per cent of all combatants of the four warring factions. The weapons of these factions will be under the custody of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) until the general elections in May 1993.

The Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the factions fighting the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh, have demanded that that government be dissolved prior to the cantonment of their troops. In place of the Phnom Penh administration, the faction wants the reconciliatory Supreme National Council (SNC) to function as the government of Cambodia and wants the United Nations to verify that all Vietnamese troops have left the country. The SNC comprises leaders of the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge and two non-communist resistance groups.

Dangling the carrot before UNTAC, the Khmer Rouge said on July 12 they would accept the "regroupment and cantonment" of their forces in a four-week process during which all leaders of the Phnom Penh government would step down. They maintain that there should be "no prime minister, no deputy prime ministers, no president, no National Assembly and Senate, no flag, armourial bearings, and national anthem" during the period that Cambodia is under UNTAC.

What is important now is to ask what the intentions of the Khmer Rouge really are. The pertinent point is that under no circumstances will the Phnom Penh government be dismantled because the Paris Peace Agreement does not provide for this, and the Khmer Rouge know this clearly. As Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said at a press conference last Thursday: "If it were true that the Khmer Rouge saw a UN-supervised election next year as bringing an end to their influence, then getting them to disarm would be impossible. But if they were trying to enhance their position in relation to the Phnom Penh government by delaying disarmament, then there is a chance to discuss the problem."

By all means, we totally agree that there must be a chance to discuss the Cambodian problem. But we too have to point out the fact that the Khmer Rouge's game plan is getting out of hand. Too much has been invested in Cambodian peace and we must not allow it to be held hostage by the Khmer Rouge in their grand design to take over Cambodia once again.

Certain quarters, especially those from ASEAN, have voiced the opinion that the blame over the impasse of the peace process should be apportioned to all concerned parties, and not put solely on the Khmer Rouge. Some officials attending the 25th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Manila said on Tuesday that some of the Khmer Rouge's complaints should be considered before the UN Security Council decides to get tough on the guerrillas. Foreign Minister Asa even said that the Khmer Rouge had raised legitimate points about continued Vietnamese influence in Cambodia.

ASEAN officials have to realize that time is of the essence in ensuring the workability of the Paris peace accords. Rather than looking for other scapegoats, this important fact has to be borne in mind: Phase II of the UN peace plan has already been implemented and right now there is a well-founded fear among the other three factions which have disarmed that they could just be reduced to sitting ducks if the heavily armed Khmer Rouge decide to attack the UN-controlled cantonments.

Vietnam at this present juncture is too preoccupied with its domestic concerns and is not in a position to station troops in Cambodia as part of its "hegemonistic designs" for a Greater Indochina Federation. For Hanoi now, it is ASEAN before anything, in its endeavours to embrace the market economy.

The only continued Vietnamese influence in Cambodia after the withdrawal of all its troops in September 1988 is the Vietnamese civilian settlers whom have since historical times carried out economic activities like fishing, market gardening, building trade and handicrafts in Cambodia. It is without doubt that the Vietnamese civilians carry out in Cambodia vital work for the economic life of the country, and their departure would add to the existing disorder currently noticeable in Phnom Penh, which is what the Khmer Rouge seem to want.

The roots of antagonism between the Cambodian and the Vietnamese go as far back as a thousand years, and giving in to the Khmer Rouge demands about the continuing Vietnamese influence in the country could only transform exaggerated nationalism into paranoid racism that would hurt the post-war Cambodia.

There seems to be no way short of UN-imposed sanctions to make the Khmer Rouge adhere to the Paris Peace Agreement of which they are a signatory. The Khmer Rouge were responsible for the death of over a million Cambodians during their reign of terror between 1975-1978, and the perpetrators of this crime against humanity are not only still free to stalk the land, they are also giving their best shot at coming back to power. In the light of this harsh reality, ASEAN is reacting blindly when it maintains that UN sanctions would only hurt the peace process.

Ministry Urges UN To Pay Peacekeeping Soldiers

BK2407021592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jul 92 p 6

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday called on the United Nations to pay Thai soldiers taking part in peacekeeping efforts in Cambodia.

The ministry asked the Thai representative to the UN headquarters in New York to seek payment for the 705 troops in the Task Force 2 Engineering Battalion involved in demining and highway repairs in Cambodia since February, said ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek.

The ministry told the UN it should at least consider paying some of the battalion's expenses, covering insurance, clothing, and ammunition worth 47 million baht, if it could not cover the full cost.

The Armed Forces has already exhausted its reserve budget for the troops. The exercise from February to April has cost 53 million baht.

The UN specifies that UN-sponsored troops in Cambodia will receive $1.25 a day while on duty and $5 when on leave, plus about $1,000 a month for special spending.

Mr Sakthip said the UN would repay the money to the ministry for forwading to the Armed Forces, but the world body is facing budgetary problems because some countries have not yet contributed their promised support.

Ministry: 7 Camps for Cambodians To Close by Feb

BK2407015592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Seven Cambodian refugee camps will be closed by February, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The Cambodian Repatriation Coordination Centre and the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) agreed to close Site K, Suksan and Ocrown camps in August.

Other centres to be shut down are Site 8 in October, Site B the following month, Khao I-Dang in December and Site 2 in February.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said refugees left in the camps to be closed next month will be transferred to the remaining centres.

The unoccupied sites will be developed for local residents to use.

About 314,000 Cambodian refugees remain in the camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The airlift of the refugees is likely to start early next month from Watthana Nakhon Airbase to Phnom Penh, the spokesman said. Repatriation by sea is planned from Thailand to Kompong Som port before the refugees are sent to Phnom Penh.

A government official said the proposed airlift has been delayed because the UNHCR which sponsors the project has not contributed money to the Royal Thai Air Force which plans to use C-130 aircraft for the operation.

Illegal Immigrants in Malaysia To Get ID Cards

BK2407023392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 92 p A5

[Text] Thai illegal immigrants in Malaysia can apply for certificates of identity at Thai diplomatic missions there, which will allow them to be employed in the country for one year. This facility is an attempt to help Thai workers illegally working in Malaysia, which has intensified its suppression of illegal foreign employees since early this month, said Foreign Ministry's spokesman Sakthip Krairoek.

He added that with the certificate, Thai workers who had been working illegally need not fear the crackdown and deportation. Malaysia has agreed in principle to allow the Thai side to issue the certificate to its nationals working illegally there, he added.

The certificate will be valid for one year, during which time the holders are expected to return to Thailand to get their passports and entry visas to legalize their status. The certificate can act as an entry visa for the holders to return to Thailand. Malaysia had fixed June 30 as the deadline for illegal immigrants to report to the authorities or face serious legal consequences.

Sakthip said according to reports Malaysia has arrested about 1,000 alleged illegal entrants who are being detained in several centres in the country, pending deportation. The ministry is checking with Malaysian authorities to find out the number of Thais arrested during the crackdown.

Sakthip said Thai diplomatic missions started issuing the certificates at the beginning of this month with a large number Thais taking advantage of the opportunity provided.

A team of 20 officials from Foreign Ministry's Passport Division and Office for the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad, and Labour Skill Development Department on Tuesday were dispatched to Malaysia to help issue the certificates to Thai workers. However, Malaysian authorities have not yet formally accepted the validity of the certificate, but Sakthip gave an assurance that no problem will arise from the Malaysian side.

The Thai ambassador to Malaysia on Monday held talks with the deputy secretary general of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry to seek approval for Thai workers to use the certificate to apply for work permits. Sakthip quoted the senior official as saying that Malaysia agreed in principle to accept the certificate while it sought final approval from the authorities concerned.

Malaysia, facing a shortage of workers, recently allowed foreigners to apply for work permits to be employed in restaurants, hotels, and deep-sea fishing. Previously, foreigners were permitted to work only on farms, construction sites and as domestic workers.

PRC To Cooperate Against Drug Trafficking

BK2407015992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Thailand and China have agreed to step up exchanges of information on drug trafficking, Police chief Gen Sawat Amonwiwat said after meeting a six-man delegation led by China's Internal Peace-keeping Minister.

The police chief said both countries agreed to step up cooperation against drug trafficking because there have been reports of new routes from the Golden Triangle through Yunnan Province to Hong Kong.

Pol Gen [Police General] Sawat quoted the Chinese minister as saying that last year China executed 200 convicts on drug charges and jailed about 400 others.

Both sides discussed cooperation in checking boats plying the Mekong River between China and the area bordering Thailand, Laos and Burma for narcotics. Details will be discussed further, Pol Gen Sawat said.

Deputy Prime Minister on Amnesty Decree Decision

BK2407021192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 92 pp A1, A2

[Excerpt] The Constitution Tribunal's decision to uphold the amnesty decree prevented the government from taking disciplinary or legal action against military leaders who ordered the crackdown against pro-democracy protesters, Deputy Prime Minister Kasem Suwannakun said yesterday.

"Disciplinary and criminal offences are no longer an issue now that the emergency decree has been upheld," Kasem said, referring to the decree which granted amnesty to all involved in the May 17-20 bloodshed.

But the deputy prime minister said there were other means (to punish military leaders held responsible for the bloody crackdown), including relegating them to less powerful positions.

"Repositioning (of military leaders) is one of the methods the government can employ even when no disciplinary offence has been committed," he said.

Kasem, also University Affairs minister, urged pro-democracy groups and the general public to accept the tribunal's ruling even if they disagreed with it.

"We have followed the rules, for better or for worse. The Constitution authorizes the issuance of the decree and, when in doubt, the people have the right to ask the tribunal to decide. Now the tribunal has performed its duty," the deputy prime minister said.

He said those dissatisfied with the tribunal's decision must find other ways to achieve their objective.

Kasem said the government committee investigating the May incident would conclude its findings and present its recommendations to Cabinet by mid-August.

He believed Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's decision on what to do with the military leadrs responsible would be based on the committee's findings.

"But the prime minister is likely to do something other than the (course of action contained in the) recommendations," he said.

Anan and Defence Minister Banchop Bunnak have said the findings of the various investigation committees, including that of the Defence Ministry, will have a bearing on the annual military reshuffle due on Oct 1.

The prime minister has been under pressure from pro-democracy groups and the general public who demand that military leaders, including Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, be brought to justice. [passage omitted]

Military Subjects Suspended at Universities

BK2307043592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 92 p A1

[Text] The Supreme Command has suspended indefinitely military subjects it had introduced to several universities to promote better understanding of the armed forces.

The move comes in the wake of the public backlash against the military after the May 17-20 bloodshed.

Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] Pricha Rotchanasen, chief of the Supreme Command's education division, said yesterday the universities involved, and the armed forces, had agreed to withdraw the subjects from their curricula.

He cited the changed attitude toward the military which had caused a sharp drop in enrolment.

"We (the universities and the armed forces) agreed to withdraw the subjects until the students' attitude toward the military changes," Pricha said.

The subjects were 'Military Science and Development' and 'National Security' which had been part of several state and private universities' curricula for the past eight years.

Some 500 students had taken the military subjects.

They involved lectures and field trips to military installations, as part of their voluntary studies.

Professional Leadership for State Firms Urged

BK2207061792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jul 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Professional Leadership Needed for State Firms"]

[Text] The Anan II Cabinet yesterday made a historic step toward ending military control of lucrative state enterprises. Army Commander Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi was removed from the chairmanship of the board of the Telephone Organization of Thailand [TOT] and replaced by Rungrot Sriprasoetsuk, a deputy permanent secretary of communications.

Earlier the Cabinet had decided to amend Thai Airways International's regulations so that the airline's chairmanship need not be held ex officio by an air force chief. Thai International's board of directors will meet on Friday to endorse the proposed amendment and call a meeting of shareholders to seek formal approval later this month. The approval is inevitable because the Finance Ministry holds over 90 per cent of the airline's shares, making it only a matter of time before the ministry demands the resignation of Supreme Commander and Air Force Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin from the airline's board.

Demilitarizing the TOT and Thai International will certainly go down in modern Thai government history as a courageous decision that all members of the Cabinet can take pride in. Communications Minister Nukun Prachuapmo deserves special mention for his perseverance in pushing for these changes.

It was also Minister Nukun who blocked and cancelled several hasty decisions on expansion projects for the Communications Authority of Thailand made by ACM Anan Kalintha in his capacity as chairman of the state enterprise. Anan took the moves after he had already been appointed interior minister on the Suchinda Cabinet. Appointment to a political office should have automatically disqualified him from holding the CAT chairmanship, but Anan and the CAT saw nothing wrong with the decisions, which would have involved several billion baht of investment had Minister Nukun not stepped in.

Instead of stopping only at purging the military leaders from the state enterprises, the Anan government should bring in the Counter Corruption Commission to investigate alleged corruption in the state enterprises as well. This would send an unmistakable message to the military that holding plum jobs in state enterprises also entails taking responsibility for any mismanagement that occurs because of or during their presence on the management board.

Other top brass still holding the chairmanship of state enterprises like Deputy Supreme Commander Gen Wimon Wongwanit at the ailing State Railway of Thailand and Navy Commander Adm [Admiral] Wichit

Karunyawanit at the Port Authority of Thailand, should ask themselves whether their presence really contributes to the growth of the state firms. If not, and if the chairmanship was given to them merely as part of the military's patronage, then they had better step down and open the way for others who have more time and relevant expertise.

The worn-out excuse that the military must control certain state enterprises providing public services for reasons of national security is no longer acceptable.

Military leaders must return to concentrate on military affairs and leave the state enterprises to the supervision of professional managers, civilian bureaucrats and elected politicians.

Ending the military presence in state enterprises would remove one key incentive for the traditional power struggles inside the armed forces. Reaching the top of the military hierarchy must not necessarily be rewarded by the chairmanship of highly lucrative state enterprises. Too often in the recent past Thailand has seen military leaders in control of major state enterprises who did not put the national good before their individual or clique interests.

Gen Itsaraphong's removal from the TOT chairmanship and ACM Kaset's imminent dismissal from Thai International seems to confirm the widespread belief that these two military leaders—both of whom were responsible for the bloody crackdown on demonstrators during the May crisis—are on the way out of power. If true, this would be an unmitigated blessing for the Thai nation, just like the end of military control over state enterprises.

Ministry Okays Registration of Two New Parties

BK2407021792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jul 92 p 6

[Text] The Interior Ministry has approved registration of two new political parties, Interior Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakun said yesterday.

The Democracy Promotion Party (Song-soem Prachathipatai), led by Rear Adm. [Admiral] Subin Yimniam and the Liberal Agriculture Party (Kasetakon Thai), led by Thuanthong Itsarawong, will be announced in the ROYAL GAZETTE soon, Mr Anan said.

He said the newly-registered Prachachon Thai yesterday told the registrar of the change in its name to Seri Tham.

Parties do not have to tell the registrar of a merger, he said. If Thoet Thai merges with Chat Thai and fields no candidates under the Thoet Thai Party's name in the election, the party will be authomatically dissolved, Mr Anan said.

So far 26 parties are eligible to participate in the election but 10 of them are still awaiting a court ruling and are most likely to be dissolved because they failed to meet the legal requirement to field candidates for at least one third of the total number of Lower House seats, Mr Anan said.

Mr Anan said the ministry's committee set up to combat vote-buying has been told of government officials not being neutral and becoming involved in vote-buying plans.

The officials will severely be punished if found guilty.

Mr Anan said committee officials have been sent to 30 provinces so far but he declined to name those provinces given special attention.

An extra 2,000 election units will be required to handle new villages.

Mr Anan said he will discuss with Interior Minister Pol Gen Phao [Police General] plans to call party leaders to a briefing on the Interior's election policies. He believes this will help prevent vote buying.

Such briefings before the March 22 election saw a reduction in vote-buying in some places, he said.

Turning to comments that some parties plan to spend about three million baht in their campaign for each candidate, Mr Anan said the legal limit is one million baht. If more is spent on each candidate, the ministry will have to investigate.

Pol Gen Phao said he will visit Surin next week with 20 other senior Interior officials to observe election preparations in northeastern provinces.

Interior Secretary-General Pol Lt Gen Bunthin Rakmit will accompany him, especially to investigate the remote-control bomb blast assassination of Surin's mayor.

Political Extremism, Demonstrations Criticized

BK2407020792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "This Is No Time for Political Extremism"]

[Text] Demonstrations where political viewpoints are aired in a peaceful manner normally constitute a healthy manifestation of democracy. But as recent history has taught us, such expressions of feeling can turn ugly and have dire consequences when sound principles and logic are overtaken by extremism and emotion. It may be recalled by many that in the midst of a national polarisation following the October 1973 uprising, and orchestrated campaign of instigation by various right-wing groups culminated in the brutal crushing of more progressive elements three years later. The bloody coup of October 1976 drove a wedge in the middle of Thai society and effectively ushered in a dark era as thousands of intellectuals were forced to go underground to escape the rightist backlash. Scenes of inhumane treatment of students and other demonstrators at Thammasat University are best left buried in the history books and must never be allowed to happen again.

Against the background of this unpleasant episode, the re-emergence of several right-wing groups in recent weeks is a disturbing development that rekindles the ugly spectre of yet another social polarisation. First to charge the political atmosphere was the notorious Krathing Daeng (Red Guard) with its none too-sophisticated slogan of "We're the Righteousness". Then there were the other groups with similarly cranky names like Thai Bats and Thunderbird 2519 which have allegedly been harassing prominent pro-democracy leaders with telephone threats. And finally, there was the Aphirak Chakri group, subsequently renamed the Organisation for Democracy under the Monarchy, which staged its first public debut with a political rally at Sanam Luang yesterday.

This latest group made no secret about its political leanings. Going much against the prevailing public mood, group leaders took Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to task by accusing him of trying to destroy the military establishment and urged members of the public to come out in force to oppose the pro-democracy movements for what the group alleged to be their attempt to destroy the country and democracy. The playing of the rightists' favourite tune Nak Phen Din was reminiscent of the politically charged atmosphere in the leadup to the October 1976 coup. The re-emergence of these right-wing groups have not come as a total surprise. The military atrocities committed during the May crisis have prompted a spontaneous outburst of popular pro-democracy movements supported by a wide spectrum of the Thai middleclass. It was to be expected that conservative right-wing elements that felt threatened by the widespread clamouring for punitive action against the Armed Forced leadership would try to engineer a counter-offensive.

Be that as it may, rules of social decency must be observed in whatever action these right-wing groups are contemplating and their activities kept within the bounds of political reason. While the pro-democracy movements can keep up their prssure on the military leadership, the rightwing groups also have the right to air their conflicting views. But heavy-handed tactics and sometimes unlawful acts that were prevalent in the pre- and post-1976 days would no longer be tolerated by the law-enforcement authorities. Our pluralistic society should thrive on rational debate of what is right and what is wrong—uncivilised tactics to silence political opponents are not only unacceptable but will also be condemned.

As individual citizens of this country, no-one has the monopoly on patriotism. Our society as a whole has already suffered enough in the traumatic events of May and their aftermath. The last thing we want to see is another round of polarisation through instigation, no matter how little chance of success such actions might have.

Phalang Tham's Chamlong Wins Magsaysay Award

BK2307141992 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The Magsaysay Award Foundation reports that Major General Chamlong Simuang, a leader in the pro-democracy protest in May and former leader of the Phalang Tham Party, has been awarded the Ramon Magsaysay award for government service this year.

The statement, issued by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, says that Maj. Gen. Chamlong, who once served as Bangkok governor and a former member of Parliament in the opposition, set a good example as an administrator while he was Bangkok governor. He succeeded in making Bangkok roads, canals, and public markets clean and in putting them in order. He also solved city traffic and flooding problems, and improved welfare for the poor people. He rejected his salary, set a good example for other officials by dressing simply, leading a frugal life, and eating only one vegetarian meal per day.

Furthermore, he upheld elections as a legitimate way to achieve political power in Thailand. The statement adds that Southeast Asia has had the experience that those elected as national political leaders do not really have power, which most of the time remains in the hands of other groups of people who place themselves above the judgement of the voters. The development of democracy has thus been slow and painful under these conditions, causing a feeling of resentment. In some cases, the elected authorities have behaved in a manner that discredits democracy itself, causing the people to feel disappointed with democracy. Yet, Maj. Gen. Chamlong has created a new hope for the Thai people by assuming leadership of a campaign for democratic reforms in Thailand.

The Ramon Magsaysay award is considered the Nobel Prize of Asia. It is named after a former president of the Philippines, who was killed in a plane crash in 1957. The winner of the award receives U.S.$30,000.

14 Local Administration Chief Officers Transferred

BK2407020592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] The Local Administration Department [LAD] yesterday issued an order transferring 14 district chief officers in eastern, northern and northeastern provinces ahead of the September 13 election.

LAD director-general Chuwong Chayabut said yesterday the transfer of the 14, to take effect on August 7, does not mean they have done anything wrong.

The transfers are in line with an earlier transfer of several provincial governors and deputy governors.

An informed department source said the district chief officers had to be transferred because they have good connections with local politicians and their presence might benefit the politicians in the election.

The officers to be transferred are Somphon Bunsoem of Trat's Muang district, Aran Pungyen of Bang Pakong District of Chachoengsao, Somphot Phipnaphumiphiset of Kantharawichai District of Maha Sarakham, Chaisiri Charoenrat of Tha Tum District of Surin, Somphot Piyato of Khemmarat District of Ubon Ratchathani, Suwat Choksuwat Thanasakun of Si Thep District of

Phetchabun, Suchit Limsiriwong of Chiang Mai, Sompong Niyomtrong of Rattanaburi District of Surin, Phaisan Kanhasiri of Nam Yuen District of Ubon Ratchathani, Chalieo Chanthawon of Na Kae District of Nakhon Phanom, Thawi Praditphet of Hang Chat District of Lampang, Phaibun Bunthamchuai of Pa Sang District of Lamphun, Surin Panruk of Sangkha District of Surin and Warong Siriphanit Kantharalak District of Si Sa Ket.

Minister Instructs New TOT Head on Procedures

BK2307013992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jul 92 p 15

[Text] Transport and Communications Minister Nukun Prachuapmo yesterday instructed newly-appointed Telephone Organisation of Thailand (TOT) chairman Rungrot Sriprasoetsuk to closely monitor the organisation's work and report to him every month.

Mr Rungrot received the instruction during a meeting with Mr Nukun at which the minister detailed his policies for the TOT.

Mr Nukun also instructed the TOT board to hold meetings twice a month instead of once.

The previous practice of TOT executives granting telephone concessions and later reporting it to the TOT board for approval was incorrect, Mr Nukun said. TOT executives should instead propose such moves to the board first to see if any conditions should be attached.

He also instructed Mr Rungrot that in future the board should have an additional role of buying and hiring equipment as well as its usual administrative work.

The board must also play an active role in developing the TOT's work plans, he said.

Mr Nukun said he had not given any special instructions to Mr Rungrot on the TOT managing director's position as it was up to the board to consider.

If the managing director did a good job he should be promoted, but if he did a poor job he may have his salary cut, Mr Nukun said.

When quizzed about speculation that managing director Phaibun Limpapayom would be the next reshuffle target, Mr Nukun said he did not know why there was such widespread speculation.

The managing director had worked hard and had good intentions towards the organisation, so nothing would happen to him, he said.

Meanwhile, TOT Employee Association leader Mit Charoenwan said the association was arranging a meeting with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to give him facts on alleged malpractice in the TOT.

Since Mr Anan and Mr Nukun were former government officials, they should know about politicians dominating permanent government officials, Mr Mit said.

The association issued an announcement saying it appreciated Prime Minister Anan's decision to remove Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi from the TOT chairmanship, saying it would help the TOT begin a brighter future.

But it asked the Government not to remove Mr Phaibun as it considered he had the ability to run the organisation.

Mr Mit said that although the removal of Mr Phaibun would be easy now that Mr Rungrot had been appointed chairman, the association wanted any moves to be transparent and based on reason.

Major THAI Investors Not To Dump Stock

BK2307011192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jul 92 p 15

[Text] Thai Airways International (THAI) yesterday alleged some big investors could dump its shares, which are scheduled to start trading on the stock market today.

The investors were hoping to force prices downward so they could buy the shares back more cheaply later.

But the airline was confident the share price would not fall below 65 baht and suggested that small shareholders do not sell even if the price is lower than that. The subscribed price was 60 baht.

THAI senior vice-president for finance Thammun Wangli assured investors that major shareholders in the national carrier would not dump their holdings.

Mr Thamnun said THAI chairman ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and other major shareholders would definitely not dump their shares this morning and said individual shareholders could not own more than 20,000 shares under Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) rules.

The shares' grey market price was quoted at 67-68 baht on Tuesday.

Describing THAI shares as blue-chip, similar to commercial banks' stocks, Mr Thamnun said he didn't want to see the shares becoming a speculative stock like some property scrip.

In the first six months of the year, THAI's profit before tax was 1,917 million baht, about 1,100 million baht short of earlier projections due to the May unrest and economic downturn.

The firm's July 24 board meeting would amend THAI's articles of association, deleting the clause stipulating that the Air Force chief would automatically be THAI chairman.

Various groups were putting pressure on THAI to remove ACM Kaset from the board. ACM Kaset has reportedly said he is willing to comply with the Government's policy on the matter.

Mr Thamnun said THAI had made a profit in the past 28 straight years. He rejected outright reports that THAI was trying to make its financial accounts look favourable, saying the airline's figures had to be verified by the Finance Ministry and Comptroller General's Office. THAI figures were very conservative by nature.

"Investors should be confident in THAI stock. It's regarded as a blue-chip stock," he said.

Mr Thamnun referred to Securities and Exchange Commission secretary-general Ekamon Khiriwat's recent remarks about THAI's investment funds having been too low in the past, based on the fact that THAI obtained 64 per cent of its funds from internal sources, 30 per cent from loans, including 20 per cent in long-term foreign loans, and the remainder from the public offering of 100 million shares on the local stock market.

"THAI's financial position is very healthy."

THAI's existing cash flow was about 6,000 million baht, compared to 3,800 million baht a year ago.

But he admitted THAI staff were on a voluntary belt-tightening drive and had been told not to work overtime to reduce costs. THAI could be out-performed by regional rivals Singapore Airlines and Cathey Pacific over the next two years, he said.

THAI flights had been 64-65 per cent full for the past two months and the figure was expected to be as high as 67 per cent when more foreign tourists travelled to Bangkok in August and September. The airline's performance normally peaked in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.

Mr Thamnun claimed a report in a foreign newspaper that THAI stock would be attractive at less than 60 baht was based on false figures.

THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL on July 8 quoted Baring Research Ltd managing director Kongkiat Opatwongkan as saying investors would buy up the shares at 40-45 baht.

Mr Thamnun said SET officials and financial institutions were concerned about the performance of THAI shares when they appeared on the market today.

Cigarette Manufacturers, Health Ministry Talk

BK2207020992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Jul 92 p 26

[Text] Nearly two years after the legal opening of the Thai cigarette market to foreign importers, representatives of the six major multinational corporations currently distributing their products in Thailand yesterday managed to hold a first dialogue with Public Health Ministry officials. They tabled proposals supportive of some of the ministry's declared public health policy objectives. Industry sources described the meeting as having a "friendly and cooperative atmosphere."

The international tobacco industry has initiated or supported such voluntary campaigns in many countries around the world over the last decade, and fully supports the ban of cigarette sales to people under 8 contained in the Tobacco Products Control Act which comes into effect on August 4.

The sources also raised the possibility of providing relevant information that could be used by the ministry in the development of regulations addressing cigarette ingredients.

In wide-ranging discussions, industry representatives from British American Tobacco Co, Brown and Williamson, Japan Tobacco Corp, Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds and Rothmans sought the ministry's views on many aspects of the two new laws passed during the first Anan Administration designed to control and regulate the cigarette industry in Thailand.

In a review of the prohibition on all advertising and promotion activities, the industry acknowledged that while the law was stringent and would be fully complied with, it was encouraged to learn that cigarette dispenser units that do not violate regulations can be utilised by the trade to keep products fresh. However, when the discussions moved onto section 11 and 12 of the Act, which cover ingredients and packaging regulations currently being drafted, the sources said they learned nothing about the precise scope and content of the regulations. In fact, in a position that seems to contradict Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's oft-stated policy of transparency, industry members said they were told their views and technical inputs would not be sought.

This was a matter of real concern, said one industry source. As an international industry he said they had absolutely no problem in accommodating content information about their products. They cooperated with governments around the world toward this end. However, if the regulations being drafted to articulate the requirements of section 11 were aimed at requiring disclosure of proprietary brand information, they did not feel this would serve any valid public health issue which could not be met with alternative approaches, as was done in all other countries requiring content disclosure with the single exception of Canada.

The sources said requiring cigarette manufacturers to disclose proprietary brand information was like asking United Distillers to reveal the formula for Black Label scotch whishky. These proprietary brand formulas are amongst the most valuable and closely held commercial assets in the world.

Countries Raise Tariffs on Each Other's Exports

BK2407024592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 92 p B1

[Excerpts] In a move that could trigger another trade dispute between Malaysia and Thailand, Malaysia has announced an increase in the handling charges on fruit and vegetable imports from Thailand.

This follows Malaysia's five-fold increase on handling charges of Thai marine animal imports last April.

Although Malaysia has not announced the new rate, Thai exporters claim that they were recently asked to pay additional handling charges on vegetable and fruit imports.

Some exporters even asked the government to impose retaliatory measures to express their opposition.

The state-run Cold Storage Organization has seen a 20 percent decline in revenue as a result of the rise in handling charges, because it was asked to share exporters' additional costs. [passage omitted]

A source from the Foreign Ministry said that the ministry recently invited the Malaysian ambassador to discuss the decision to raise the handling charge on fish imports from Thailand with the Thai officials from the Commerce Ministry and the Communications Ministry.

The Thai side cited the five-fold increase in handling charge as a major cause of suffering among Thai trawlers, since they were forced to sell their products at a price of between Bt[baht]1 to Bt3 per kilogramme lower than the normal.

The source added that the ministry is waiting for an answer from its Malaysian counterpart on whether it will reduce the handling charge fee on fish imports from Thailand.

Vietnam

Spokesman 'Very Concerned' by Cambodia Massacre

BK2407053692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0522 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi, July 24 (AFP)—The Vietnamese authorities expressed concern Friday after the United Nations revealed in Phnom Penh the massacre of eight ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia.

"We are very concerned about this news, which we are trying to verify," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He repeated Vietnam's official view that Vietnamese "who live and work legally in Cambodia ... be protected like other foreign residents."

The United Nations said Thursday that soldiers from one of Cambodia's rival factions killed eight ethnic Vietnamese, including a week-old baby, in a village in southeastern Cambodia on Tuesday.

It was not clear to which faction the troops belonged.

But one Vietnamese official, who requested anonymity, speculated that the massacre was a "deliberate act aimed at sabotaging the Cambodian peace process."

Spokesman Rejects Khmer Rouge Charge on Troops

BK2307155192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Asked about the 18 July 1992 six-point statement by Khieu Samphan, head of the Democratic Kampuchea faction, where he falsely charged that Vietnam still maintains its military presence in Cambodia and is conducting military operations and sending people to Cambodia to implement the so-called Vietnamization of Cambodia and re-drawing its overland and sea boundaries, etc., a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman hereby declares that as everyone knows, the Democratic Kampuchea faction is trying to obstruct the peace process in Cambodia and seeking ways to sabotage the Paris accords. By making the above allegations, the Democratic Kampuchea faction attempts to cover up their actions by diverting public attention from the real causes of the present complex situation in Cambodia. At the same time, they are inciting national hatred and undermining the neighborly friendship of Vietnam and Cambodia by terrorizing Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

The aforementioned allegations of the Democratic Cambodia faction are sheer and groundless fabrications.

In its capacity as a signatory of the Paris accords on Cambodia, Vietnam always respects and scrupulously complies with the clauses of these accords concerning Vietnam. Vietnam has time and again asserted that it has completely withdrawn its troops, military advisers and personnel, and all its weapons and equipment from Cambodia and has terminated all its military assistance to Cambodia.

On 30 May 1992 Vietnam officially informed the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the countries concerned about this problem. The world public, Prince Sihanouk, president of the SNC [Supreme National Council], and the UNTAC have all highly valued and warmly welcomed the goodwill of Vietnam.

As Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia are earning a living legally in Cambodia, they should be authorized to earn their living and be protected as is the case with other foreign nationals. As for those outstanding problems between the two countries, including the border issue, a joint Vietnamese-Cambodian communique signed between Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, the Vietnamese foreign minister; and Prince Sihanouk, president of the SNC, affirmed that they would be solved with the Cambodian Government following the general elections.

Vietnam demands that the Democratic Kampuchea faction immediately end such fabrications and calls on the UNTAC and the SNC to take steps to prevent the faction from inciting an anti-Vietnam mentality, from continuing their sabotage activities, and even worse, from demanding a revision of the agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue.

PRC Spokesman Cited on Sino-Viet Relations

BK2407110892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that all differences between China and Vietnam will be solved through peaceful negotiations. The spokesman further said the differences will not prejudice the development of the bilateral relationship. China hoped that the Sino-Vietnamese relation will continue developing in the spirit of five principles of peaceful co-existence.

Foreign Minister Attends Manila ASEAN Meeting

BK2307161192 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 23—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam attended as guest the ASEAN Foreign Ministerial Conference held in Manila on July 21 and 22.

On July 22 Vietnam and Laos signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. The same day ASEAN foreign ministers made known that Vietnam and Laos may become observers at the annual ASEAN conferences.

The conference prised the adherence of Vietnam and Laos to the treaty as a contribution to broadening cooperation in the region and making it more effective. The joint communique of the conference urged continuation of the peace process in Cambodia and called on all countries in the region to ensure regional stability by strengthening economic cooperation.

The conference also issued a special statement on the Truong Sa (Spratly) Archipelago calling on all concerned parties to resort to peaceful measures and not to use force in the settlement of questions concerning sovereignty and jurisdiction in the East Sea.

Discusses Signing ASEAN Treaty

BK2407063392 Hanoi VNA in English 0606 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 24—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam in an interview with the national daily NHAN DAN today described Vietnam's adherence to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia as an extremely important development in the relations among nations in Southeast Asia.

Asked about the purpose and significance of Vietnam's adherence to the Bali Treaty, the foreign minister said:

"The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Bali Treaty) enshrines the fundamental guidelines for the friendly and cooperative relations among member countries in conformity with the fundamental principles governing the present international relations. It also completely chimes in with Vietnam's foreign policy. These fundamental principles are: To respect each other's national independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity each country shall lead the activities of its nation free from interference, subversion or pressure from outside, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, settlement of disputes by peaceful means to refrain from the threat of force of the use of force and to carry out effective cooperation. The Bali Treaty serves as the basis for the building of a peaceful, stable, cooperative and developed Southeast Asia. That's why we decided to join the treaty.

"Developing the friendly and cooperative relations with other Southeast Asian countries for peace, stability and development of each country as well as of the whole region is a priority in Vietnam's foreign policy. Vietnam's adherence to the Bali Treaty and its participation in ASEAN annual conferences as observer comes within the framework of that policy whereby Vietnam would step by step take part in the multiform, deep and long-term cooperation among countries in the region.

"This conforms to the growing trend of regional cooperation in the world. That is why Vietnam's adherence to the Bali Treaty has won warm support from the world, especially public opinion in the region."

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam added:

"Vietnam's participation in the Bali Treaty as well as the many agreements it has signed with individual member states of ASEAN have laid firm foundations for further promoting our friendship and long-term cooperation with each ASEAN member and with ASEAN as a whole. There is no doubt that the Vietnam-ASEAN relations will continue to develop in the days to come".

In a relevant commentary, NHAN DAN today said:

"Vietnam's goodwill to build up friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia and a peaceful, stable and developed Southeast Asia in recent years has been warmly responded by ASEAN countries. Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet's official visits to the six ASEAN member countries and the Vietnam visits by the Indonesian president, Thai prime minister and Malaysian premier are important landmarks in the promotion of the mutual understanding, friendship and mutual trust among countries in the region. A series of agreements signed during those visits are being fruitful executed by the signatories, meeting the needs in socioeconomic development of each country".

Partial Results of Assembly Elections Reported

BK2307134592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Results of Ninth National Assembly elections in Ninh Binh, Quang Ninh, Nam Ha, Ha Bac, Tien Giang, Long An, Soc Trang, Vinh Long, and Can Tho Provinces]

[Text] Following are results of the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly from Ninh Binh, Quang

Ninh, Nam Ha, Ha Bac, Tien Giang, Long An, Soc Trang, Vinh Long, and Can Tho Provinces:

Ninh Binh Province

Number of electoral units	2
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	5
Number of candidates	7
Number of registered voters	453,383
Number of actual voters	450,647
Voter turnout	99.39 percent
Number of deputies elected	5

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Ninh Binh Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Le Duc Binh, elected with 93.86 percent of the total valid votes;
2. To Xuan Toan, elected with 86.55 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Dinh Van Hung, elected with 62.22 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Nguyen Trong Xuyen, elected with 90.08 percent of the total valid votes; and
5. Le Thi Bich, elected with 68.69 percent of the total valid votes.

Quang Ninh Province

Number of electoral units	2
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	6
Number of candidates	10
Number of registered voters	482,636
Number of actual voters	479,062
Voter turnout	99.25 percent
Number of deputies elected	6

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Quang Ninh Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Nguyen Binh Giang, elected with 87.78 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Hong Ha, elected with 83.25 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Nguyen Thi Le, elected with 66.17 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Dang Thi Thanh Huong, elected with 81.09 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Nguyen Viet Hoe, elected with 72.04 percent of the total valid votes; and
6. Ban Tien Dung, elected with 55.63 percent of the total valid votes.

Nam Ha Province

Number of electoral units	6
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	14
Number of candidates	20
Number of registered voters	1,449,465
Number of actual voters	1,440,664
Voter turnout	99.39 percent
Number of deputies elected	14

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Nam Ha Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Nguyen Manh Hung, elected with 85.36 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Dang Khoi, elected with 84.80 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Vu Gia Tham, elected with 72.20 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Tran Quang Ngoc, elected with 93.93 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Vu Tu Nam, elected with 91.15 percent of the total valid votes;
6. Bui Van Tien, elected with 57.34 percent of the total valid votes;
7. Nguyen Van Kha, elected with 90.89 percent of the total valid votes;
8. Phung Anh Tu, elected with 71.02 percent of the total valid votes;
9. Vu Mao, elected with 92.66 percent of the total valid votes;
10. Nguyen Duc Hiep, elected with 67.54 percent of the total valid votes;
11. Nguyen Trong Nhan, elected with 91.33 percent of the total valid votes;
12. Nguyen Minh Quang, elected with 72.88 percent of the total valid votes;
13. Nguyen Thi Than, elected with 83.46 percent of the total valid votes; and
14. Lai Vi Nghi, elected with 61.57 percent of the total valid votes.

Ha Bac Province

Number of electoral units	5
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	12
Number of candidates	19
Number of registered voters	1,228,651
Number of actual voters	1,211,694
Voter turnout	98.61 percent
Number of deputies elected	12

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Ha Bac Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Do Binh Duong, elected with 92.20 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Tang Duong, elected with 70.49 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Mai Thuc Lan, elected with 85.38 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Nguyen Hoa Binh, elected with 79.60 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Tran Duc Tam, elected with 67.48 percent of the total valid votes;
6. Nguyen Van Nhan, elected with 73.84 percent of the total valid votes;
7. Nguyen Van Vong, elected with 66.39 percent of the total valid votes;
8. Nguyen Viet Dung, elected with 93.29 percent of the total valid votes;
9. Nguyen Thuy Cai, elected with 87.38 percent of the total valid votes;
10. Nguyen Thi Nhung, elected with 60.09 percent of the total valid votes;
11. Nguyen Ba Cu, elected with 65.71 percent of the total valid votes; and
12. Tang Van Luy, elected with 60.67 percent of the total valid votes.

Tien Giang Province

Number of electoral units	3
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	7
Number of candidates	11
Number of registered voters	856,624
Number of actual voters	855,185
Voter turnout	99.83 percent
Number of deputies elected	7

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Tien Giang Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Nguyen Tan Luc, elected with 77.52 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Pham Van Khanh, elected with 74.07 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Nguyen Van Chinh, also known as Chin Can, elected with 75.58 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu, elected with 61.20 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Truong Cong Pho, elected with 72.72 percent of the total valid votes;
6. Phan Minh Thanh, elected with 71.15 percent of the total valid votes;
7. Nguyen Van Khang, elected with 60.21 percent of the total valid votes.

Long An Province

Number of electoral units	2
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	6
Number of candidates	9
Number of registered voters	651,601
Number of actual voters	646,283
Voter turnout	99.18 percent
Number of deputies elected	6

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Long An Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Nguyen Thanh Nguyen, elected with 67.47 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Tran Van Luc, elected with 66.83 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Nguyen Van Thanh, elected with 57.45 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Pham Thanh Phong, elected with 83.42 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Dang Cong Thach, elected with 81.54 percent of the total valid votes;
6. Vo Thi Thang, elected with 74.45 percent of the total valid votes.

Soc Trang Province

Number of electoral units	3
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	8
Number of candidates	11
Number of registered voters	581,185
Number of actual voters	571,400
Voter turnout	98.31 percent
Number of deputies elected	8

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Soc Trang Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Le Phuoc Tho, also known as Sau Hau, elected with 86.58 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Ha Thai Binh, also known as Tu Hien, elected with 78.70 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Duong Nhon, elected with 66.46 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Le Thanh Binh, elected with 91.38 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Lam Hung Kien, elected with 73.42 percent of the total valid votes;
6. Phan Le Hong, elected with 69.51 percent of the total valid votes;
7. Huynh Cuong, elected with 81.13 percent of the total valid votes;
8. Diep Kinh Tan, elected with 58.82 percent of the total valid votes.

Vinh Long Province

Number of electoral units	2
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	6
Number of candidates	10
Number of registered voters	528,403
Number of actual voters	525,855
Voter turnout	99.51 percent
Number of deputies elected	6

Following is a list of the deputies elected from Vinh Long Province to the Ninth National Assembly:

1. Ho Minh Man, elected with 82.94 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Duong Tan De, elected with 69.44 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Le Nam Hai, elected with 61.12 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Tran Huu Tin, elected with 66.51 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Phan Tan Tai, elected with 60.24 percent of the total valid votes;
6. Chau Hong Linh, elected with 59.97 percent of the total valid votes.

Can Tho Province

Number of electoral units	4
Number of allocated National Assembly deputies	10
Number of candidates	16
Number of registered voters	893,825
Number of actual voters	877,715
Voter turnout	98.19 percent
Number of deputies elected	10

Following is a list of the elected deputies to the Ninth National Assembly in Can Tho Province:

1. Duong Viet Trung, elected with 66.12 percent of the total valid votes;
2. Pham Van Kiet, also known as Nam Van, elected with 65.33 percent of the total valid votes;
3. Vo Tong Xuan, elected with 79.13 percent of the total valid votes;
4. Pham Xuan Dinh, elected with 63.65 percent of the total valid votes;
5. Ngo Hong Khanh, elected with 54.43 percent of the total valid votes;
6. Nguyen Ha Phan, elected with 90.94 percent of the total valid votes;
7. Bui Van Hoanh, elected with 77.53 percent of the total valid votes;
8. Nguyen Thi Kim Lien, elected with 55.42 percent of the total valid votes;
9. Nguyen Xuan Xinh, elected with 86.14 percent of the total valid votes;
10. Phan Tan Tien, elected with 69.18 percent of the total valid votes.

Jan-Jun Import-Export Activities Reported

BK2307142592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] In the first half of this year the entire country has earned 1.25 billion U.S. dollars [USD] from exports, fulfilling more than 42 percent of the yearly target. As for those units directly under the management of the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism, they have grossed more than 420 million USD from export. The main export products comprise rice, crude oil, coffee, coal, tin, and marine products.

To create favorable conditions for establishments to increase the volume of export products, the state has issued Decision 114 easing the limitations on product categories and reducing intermediary steps to be followed in the application for licenses.

On the import front, in the first half of this year the entire country imported a total of 870 million USD worth of materials and equipment, a slight drop compared to the same period last year. However, a sufficient volume of essential goods has been imported to meet the requirements of daily consumption and production.

Regarding local goods circulation, in the first half of this year the total value of retail services operated by the various economic sectors has reached nearly 20,000 billion dong, of which the private economic sector accounted for 76 percent. The state economic sector accounted for only 21 percent but played a key role in providing a sufficient volume of essential goods, reserve products to be used in case of typhoons and floods; school supplies; and daily consumption commodities such as fabrics, kerosene, and iodized salt for compatriots in mountain areas.

Cook Islands

Prime Minister on Opposition to Nuclear Testing

BK2407075692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The Cook Islands prime minister, Sir Geoffrey Henry, says France's suspension of nuclear testing in the South Pacific poses a challenge to other nuclear powers. Sir Geoffrey said the French moratorium could become permanent if other nuclear powers also stop testing, but he thought this was not likely to happen.

The prime minister said several member countries of the South Pacific Forum had written to various world leaders seeking support for the French moratorium adding that the Cook Islands would continue to formally oppose nuclear testing.

Papua New Guinea

Talks Slated With Bougainville Rebels

BK2307152792 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 23 Jul 92

[From "International Report" program]

[Text] The new Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government says it will hold talks with the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] before deciding its policy to end the secessionist dispute on Bougainville Island. The minister for foreign affairs in the caretaker government, John (Karbuton), says Bougainville is a national tragedy which can only be solved by a political settlement. PNG correspondent Brian Abbott says the new Wingti government is first moving to reestablish relations with neighboring Solomon Islands. Relations which had been shattered by the spill over effects of Bougainville.

[Begin recording] [Abbott] New PNG Prime Minister Paias Wingti, has signalled a new open approach to find a just and lasting peace to the Bougainville secessionist crisis. The government is still to formulate its policy to end the suffering of the people of Bougainville but the foreign minister in the caretaker government, John (Karbuton), says that policy will only be decided after full consultations with all parties involved and that includes the BRA.

[(Karbuton)] As we are all aware, the Bougainville people have gone through so much sufferings and hurt and thousands of them have been deprived of the basic essentials such as health, education facilities and supplies, shelter and food, and other such commodities. On the basis of these and the declaration of their other rights as guaranteed under the national constitution, I must appeal to all concerned and to the media to treat this national tragedy with care and understanding.

[Abbott] Mr. (Karbuton) has also admitted that the Bougainville crisis has implications beyond PNG.

[(Karbuton)] We have to make it absolutely clear that this government regards the Bougainville affairs as a major concern that affect this country, both domestically and internationally.

[Abbott] The crisis has led to a dramatic deterioration in relations between Port Moresby and Honiara with Solomon Islands Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni refusing to attend the meeting of the meeting of a Melanesian Spearhead Group in PNG and banning contact on a government to government level until the results of last month's election was known. Solomon Islands has long been a trans-shipment point for supplies to Bougainville to get around the economic blockade imposed by the Port Moresby government. It also allows Bougainville supporters to operate from Honiara on humanitarian grounds despite protest by PNG. But the major impediment in neighborly relations was two cross border raids by PNG troops in April to destroy a Solomons fuel depot that was supplying Bougainville rebels.

In recent weeks, Honiara had angered PNG by extending by two years the permit of Bougainville spokesman, Martin (Mariyori), to remain in Honiara and issuing a Solomons passport to interim government member, Bishop John Zale. Mr. (Karbuton) says one of his first act as a minister in the new Wingti Caretaker Government was to stop a strong protest being forwarded to Honiara.

[(Karbuton)] I have not approved any letter of protest to the government of Solomon Islands with regard to certain of their actions that might be seen as unfriendly act and (?blatantly) disregard for PNG's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. While these cornerstones of nationhood are scared and there are principles that must be protected, we must also bear at all times that we live in a world of coexistence and where human feelings and dignity are also important if peace and harmony is to be enjoyed in the South Pacific.

[Abbott] PNG and Solomon Islands will attempt to heal the wound in their relationship over Bougainville at an extraordinary meeting of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in Vanuatu next week. Prime Ministers Paias Wingti and Solomon Mamaloni will hold talks away from the summit. The mending of Port Moresby-Honiara relations will be considered the first step in seeking a just and peaceful political settlement to the Bougainville crisis. [end recording]